MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 DECEMBER 1981

U.S.-Libyan Dispute

A People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison communique broadcast by JANA on 11 December denied U.S. allegations that the security situation has deteriorated for U.S. citizens in Libya and stressed that Americans there are in no danger. JANA subsequently broadcast a strong attack on recent U.S. television commentaries by Jack Anderson, charging that the details he gave of a Libyan assassination squad are imaginary. Asserting that U.S. oil experts in Libya have said oil extracting will proceed whether they stay or depart, a 13 December Tripoli radio commentary said the American oil company employees intend to stay in Libya because life is quieter and more secure there than in any U.S. city. Meanwhile, WAKH reported that Oil Secretary 'Abd as-Salam az-Zaq'ar told a 12 December press conference in Abu Dhabi that Libya will face problems as a result of the departure of U.S. companies, but will try to operate its installations itself, or with its friends. He called on the European countries to avoid following in U.S. footsteps. In an interview broadcast the same day by Voice of Lebanon radio, Libya's representative in Lebanon said his country is ready to join the Warsaw Pact "if necessary."

Voicing concern over the deterioration in U.S.-Libyan relations, an Algerian Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement broadcast by Algiers radio that his country regrets the "open threats of intervention" against a fraternal and neighboring country by a superpower "who quite clearly bears the responsibility for safeguarding international peace and security." Both the Syrian newspaper TISHRIN, as reported by SANA, and the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio carried commentaries strongly criticizing U.S. measures against Libya. According to KUNA, the Kuwaiti papers AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM and the Kuwait TIMES both deplored the U.S. moves, while SPA reported that AR-RIYAD warned that U.S.-Libyan differences might transform North Africa into an area of superpower conflict.

OPEC Meeting

According to Dubayy's KHALEEJ TIMES, the 6-11 December OPEC oil ministers conference in Abu Dhabi agreed on a wide range of price cuts based on revision of the price differentials for various types of oil. The paper cited Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum and natural resources minister and conference chairman, as reiterating that the new prices will remain valid until the end of 1982. The conference final statement, broadcast by Abu Dhabi radio, noted that after hearing a report on "threats against one of the member countries," the conference emphasized that any "purely economic" threat against any member compels the other members to support that country in accordance with the OPEC Charter. It also noted the ministers' decision that the long-term strategy committee should continue its activities and that the proposal to establish an OPEC higher studies institute will be further examined.

In an interview broadcast by Tehran radio, Iranian Petroleum Minister Mohammad Gharazi affirmed that Iran resisted the oil price reductions but indicated that it finally yielded in order to retain its customers.

Syria

Al-Asad Interview -- In a lengthy interview with two Kuwaiti publications broadcast by Damascus radio, President Hafiz al-Asad said "personal reasons" prevented him from attending the Fes summit conference. Asserting that the summit was not necessarily a failure and that Syria supports its postponement to allow time for further discussion to produce a unified Arab stand, Al-Asad said his country's relations with Saudi Arabia are good, with constant contacts and dialogue. Asked whether the Saudis have financed a Syrian arms deal with the Soviet Union for MiG-25 aircraft, Al-Asad said there is no connection between Saudi support for Syria and the latter's acquisition of arms from the Soviet Union. He described the Israeli-U.S. agreement on strategic cooperation as a "treaty of aggression against the Arab nation" and said Syria hopes to obtain weapons from the Soviet Union of

the same quality and quantity as those Israel possesses. However, he said, Soviet arsenals are not open to Syria in the same way as U.S. arsenals are open to Israel.

The Syrian leader criticized unspecified "Arab citizens" for seeking the "shortest, easiest and least difficult" route to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and also regretted that some Arabs have described any call for steadfastness and confrontation as "oneupmanship." He stressed that a just peace is currently impossible because of the strategic imbalance between Israel and the Arabs.

Reiterating charges that Jordan has supported the Muslim Brotherhood's campaign against his government, Al-Asad said the Syrian authorities will pursue the Muslim Brotherhood inside the country but not outside it, since "we did not and do not think of chasing the remnants of the Muslim Brotherhood outside Syria." He admitted that Fatah dissident Hasan al-Banna, commonly known as Abu Nidal, is being allowed to stay in Syria, but said Syria opposes any Palestinian group that harms other Palestinian groups. Al-Asad said Syria's relations with the PLO and its leader, Yasir 'Arafat, are very good. Elsewhere in his remarks, Al-Asad admitted that problems, shortcomings and defects exist in the steadfastness and confrontation states, asserted that Syria would have severed relations with Iran's Islamic Republic if the Iranians had dealt with Israel, and commented on his recent talks with U.S. special envoy Philip Habib. Noting that Habib had mentioned "in passing" Syria's missiles in Lebanon, Al-Asad said a review of past events and future possibilities for Lebanon featured in the discussion, which was general rather than specific. While SANA's account of the interview reported Al-Asad as describing his talks with Habib as a "waste of time," Al-Asad did not say this in the radio's broadcast "text."

Aleppo, Hamah Clashes -- According to a 12 December Voice of Lebanon radio report, scores of people were killed in recent fighting in Aleppo and Hamah between special units and Muslim Brotherhood supporters.

Israel

An extraordinary Cabinet session decided to apply Israeli law on the Golan Heights, Jerusalem radio reported and added that Prime Minister Menahem Begin had informed Alignment faction Chairman Moshe Shahal and MK Sholomo Lorincz from Agudat Yisra'el. The radio also reported that MAPAM and Shinuy announced they would oppose the decision.

Lebanon

Voice of Lebanon radio reported that in an interview with the weekly AL-USBU' AL-ARABI, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said his government is interested in forming a Lebanese security force, under his personal supervision, to which no side will object. He indicated that the force would enforce the cease-fire in central Beirut provided the gunmen withdraw from both sides of the central area to the hinterland of the eastern and western sectors.

Tripartite Alliance

Addis Ababa radio's English service reported that the Ethiopian-Libyan-PDRY defense and security committee held a meeting in Addis Ababa attended by Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the Libyan General People's Congress; 'Ali Antar, PDRY first deputy prime minister; and Fiseha Desta, Ethiopian Council of Ministers deputy chairman. The radio gave no details of their discussions. JANA had earlier reported that during Jallud's bilateral talks with Ethiopian officials on 12 December, both sides affirmed the need for practical steps to implement the Ethiopian-Libyan-PDRY alliance.

Reaction to Cheysson Statements

Jordan's King Husayn chaired a Cabinet session devoted to a discussion and evaluation of the French position in light of recent statements by senior French officials on the Middle East situation, Amman radio reported. The Cabinet concluded that the statements constitute a "serious reversal" of French policy, destroying the main bases of Europe's Middle East policy, and recommended that Arab states reconsider their own policies in light of their "threatened interests."

According to KUNA, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf told a trade union seminar in Kuwait that Arab countries should reconsider their agreements with France, particularly those concerning oil and finance. Citing AL-QABUS, KUNA reported that Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson's recent statements in Israel are a departure from traditional French efforts to maintain good relations with the Arab countries.

According to Damascus radio, ATH-THAWRAH described Cheysson's statements as a "major retreat" from past French policy, which places France in a "subservient" position to the United States.

Extradition of Palestinian

ITIM reported that Ziyad Abu 'Ayn, a Palestinian wanted by Israel for participating in a terrorist act in 1979, was extradited from the United States on 13 December. The Voice of Palestine described the U.S. decision to hand over Abu 'Ayn as a "hostile decision against the Palestinian people" and also reported that Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf said the move proves the truth about the U.S. strategic alliance with Israel. Khalaf called on Arab regimes to investigate and withdraw their ambassadors in the United States who "colluded" in this issue and concealed reports about the likelihood of Abu 'Ayn's extradition.

A Jordanian Foreign Ministry statement broadcast by Amman radio also denounced the extradition, describing it as illegal and asserting that Abu 'Ayn should be handed over to Jordan. Claiming that his trial will enhance the Palestinian cause, the Jordanian statement said Abu 'Ayn is now among thousands of prisoners kept in Israeli jails for exercising their civil and political rights in resisting occupation in accordance with the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

Egypt

Mubarak Press Conference -- In a 13 December press conference reported by MENA, President Husni Mubarak said that while Egypt will continue its present policy, "there might be some changes in methods." He deplored the spread of "biased rumors" about the position of the Copts, aimed at creating unacceptable disturbances. Asked about Egypt's military presence on its border with Libya, Mubarak said there are no troops there "for the reason some imagined," adding that Egypt will not start a war against any Arab state.

Detainees Released -- MENA reported that on 12 December the supreme state security prosecutor released 17 detainees accused of communicating with a foreign country and other offenses. The group, which includes former Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad 'Abd as-Salam az-Zayyat, was released for lack of sufficient evidence.

Bahrain

An Interior Ministry statement broadcast by Manama radio on 13 December announced the arrest of a group of Bahrainis and other Gulf nationals who had come to Bahrain after having been trained by Iran to sabotage vital installations in the country. The radio also broadcast a Foreign Ministry statement revealing that Bahrain protested Iranian support for the saboteurs to the Iranian charge d'affaires in Manama and requested an official Iranian clarification of the matter. According to WAKH, the Bahraini paper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ strongly attacked the Iranian leaders in its 14 December editorial, accusing them of seeking to plunge Bahrain and the Arabian Gulf into an arena of conflict and dissension.

Tehran radio reported that Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad 'Azizi categorically denied Bahrain's allegations, speaking of "sinister plots" aimed at blaming Iran for instability in the region.

Iran

Security Situation -- Mashhad radio reports claimed four Mojahedin-e Khalq guerrillas were killed during clashes with revolution guards in Mashhad. Meanwhile, in a speech to Semnan Province imams broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni denounced the 11 December assassination of Shiraz Friday Imam Ayatollah 'Abdolhoseyn Dastgheyb, asserting that because they fear Islam, the Mojahedin are under orders to shoot anyone "wearing a turban."

Minister Proposed -- PARS reported that Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi proposed that the Majlis approve Tehran Deputy 'Ali Akbar Velayati as foreign minister and Tehran Deputy 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri as interior minister.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio claimed new Iranian advances in the Gilan-e Gharb region on 11 December and asserted that Iran may launch offensive operations inside Iraq in the near future. However, an Iraqi Armed Forces communique carried by INA the same day said Iraqi forces inflicted heavy losses on the Iranians and the next Iraqi communique, broadcast by Baghdad Voice of Masses radio on 12 December, claimed that Iraqi troops had counterattacked in the Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar regions, killing over 1,200 Iranians and forcing the enemy to retreat. On the other hand, an Iranian Armed Forces communique carried by Tehran radio on 13 December said the Iranians foiled the "feeble" Iraqi counteroffensive, killing 160 Iraqis. While the Iraqi communique said two Iranian F-14 fighters and one Iraqi plane were downed in a dogfight over Gilan-e Gharb, an Iranian communique carried by Tehran radio on 12 December reported that two Iraqi planes, including a Mirage, were downed.

Afghanistan

Kabul radio reported that Prime Minister Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand held talks in Moscow on 12 December with CPSU Central Committee Secretary Boris Ponomarev. The following day, the radio reported, Keshtmand returned home to Kabul where PDPA officials welcomed him at the airport.

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'AFAFAT CHAIRS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

JN121807 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] this evening presided over a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee during which a general review of the situation inside the occupied land was held. The committee discussed at length the popular upheaval raging for 6 weeks now throughout the occupied homeland, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

The PLO Executive Committee decided to follow up the situation resulting from this popular upheaval with the United Nations.

The Executive Committee also discussed the dangerous military situation in southern Lebanon in light of the enemy military concentrations and the enemy leaders' military threats.

The committee then discussed the multifaceted political developments in the Middle East.

U.S. EXTRADITION OF ABU 'AYN TO ISRAEL DENOUNCED

VOP Report on Extradition

NC131036 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Enemy sources, in an urgent report from Washington this morning, said that the United States has turned over Palestinian struggler Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to Israel despite campaigns denouncing this measure and his continued detention in a Chicago prison.

The sources added that Deputy Secretary of State William Clark signed at dawn today the order on turning Abu 'Ayn over to the Zionist enemy.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian struggler left the United States for the Zionist entity this morning under a strict guard which had been sent from Tel Aviv to Washington.

Last week, the enemy foreign minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, sent a cable to U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig in which he said that if the United States does not turn Abu 'Ayn over to Israel, then this will be considered as tantamount to surrender to terrorism.

It is reported that the occupation authorities have accused struggler Ziyad Abu 'Ayn of participating in a Fedayeen operation which took place in Tiberias a few years ago -- the operation which resulted in killing and wounding a number of enemies. These authorities had asked the United States to detain and hand him over to them.

Reprisals Urged

NC131218 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1138 GMT 13 Dec 81

[From "With the Events" program]

[Text] The U.S. administration last night adopted a direct hostile decision against the Palestinian people by turning over Palestinian struggler Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to the Zionist racist occupation authorities. The handing over of Ziyad came concurrently with the visit which U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig will pay to occupied Palestine as a new clear proof of the U.S. administration's support for the Zionist enemy and its traditional enmity to our Palestinian people and a real slap in the face to the Arab world.

This cowardly move by Washington arouses protests, denunciation and condemnation by the Palestinian and Arab masses and the struggling forces in the world. Inasmuch as this move constitutes a great defiance of the Arab feelings by the imperialist administration in Washington, it also shows U.S. submission to the Zionist decision.

The United States of America, which embarked on this unethical move and which claims to care for its citizens, will soon find itself biting its fingers in regret for committing this crime, which runs counter to its claims regarding human rights and the safeguarding of human freedom.

The handing over of Ziyad Abu 'Ayan by the Reagan administration is a new message from this administration to all the Arabs, telling them: The United States is with Israel, whether justice is on its side or not. Arab pleading will be of no use in dealing with Washington.

The Palestinian revolution, which holds the U.S. Government fully responsible for turning Palestinian citizen Ziyad Abu 'Ayn over to the Zionist entity, appeals to its Palestinian and Arab masses and its friends in this world to denounce Washington's crime through explicit anger and decisive reprisals against the head of the imperialist snake, the enemy of freedom and man, the United States of America.

Salah Khalaf Makes Statement

JN131720 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, has made the following statement on the U.S. administration's extradition of struggler Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to the Zionist authorities yesterday: The United States yesterday extradited Palestinian struggler Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to the Zionist authorities, thus flagrantly adding, with such a dirty act, a criminal act to its series of ugly acts -- which it has perpetrated and still is perpetrating against our people and the Arab nation, thus disdaining all international laws and norms.

Through perpetrating such a crime, the U.S. administration clearly proved, by action and not just words, the truth about its strategic alliance with the Zionist enemy. It is also showed all the Arabs who have ahd illusions about the possibility of U.S. neutrality and still believed its promises, that it insists on continuing its course -- which is hostile to our Arab people's aspirations of liberation and independence.

The acts of deceit led by the U.S. State Department before the extradition of struggler Abu 'Ayn and U.S. Secretary of State Haig's false promises expose the nature of this U.S. Administration -- which has chosen a suitable time for this extradition, indeed, this extradition is tantamount to a gift from Haig to the Zionist authorities prior to his forthcoming visit to Tel Aviv.

On this subject, we call on the Arab regimes which will receive him during the coming days to adopt a stand. They are called on to investigate their ambassadors who colluded in this issue and concealed reports on the U.S. administration's insistence on extraditing struggler Abu 'Ayn and to withdraw these ambassadors from Washington, since they do not deserve to represent their people or the Arab nation.

This grave precedent means to us that the life and security of any Arab student or citizen residing in the United States is now directly threatened by the United States and Israel under the guise of any justification or pretext. The extradition of the student Ziyad Abu 'Ayn simply means that the United States has become a direct partner with and an implementation tool for Israel inside the United States. It thus behooves all universities, cultural, scientific and popular bodies and unions and human rights organizations all over the Arab homeland and the world to immediately adopt all the procedures they deem fit to deter the United States from carrying out such illegal and inhuman acts.

In confronting such a grave act, the issue that is raised on the Palestinian arena is the necessity of adopting all the procedures deemed fit to protect the Palestinian masses everywhere, not only from the Zionist enemy or the Central Intelligence but also from the U.S. administration itself, while at the same time preserving our right to make the suitable retaliation whenever we like.

Through its extradition of Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to the Zionist authorities, the U.S. administration is carrying out the ugliest forms of international terrorism and piracy while at the same time continuously saying that the PLO and Libya are practicing terrorism. Through such an act, the U.S. administration proves to the entire world that it is the head of world terrorism.

'ARAFAT, HABASH ADDRESS PFLP ANNIVERSARY RALLY

'Arafat Speech

NC132039 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1635 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Speech delivered by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat -- identified as Abu 'Ammar -- at a speech rally held today at the Arab University of Beirut on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine -- recorded]

[Excerpts] In 1965 we created a new reality in our Arab nation: the reality of the Palestinian rifle. [applause] Yes, we have created in our Arab nation a revolutionary reality which believes that the people and the Arab nation will score the victory and liberate Palestine, all Palestine. [applause] However, permit me to say a [word indistinct] word. You know that at the time when the joint forces are scoring these victories and when the Palestinian revolution is advancing in all fields, there is an Arab weight which drags it backward. The reason is the Arab conditions through which we are passing. It is absolutely no shame for us to confront these facts, but it is a shame that we should bury our head in the sand and say that we are (?not a part) of our Arab nation. No, we are an indivisible part of this Arab nation. What befalls us befalls this nation. Our afflictions are its afflictions; and its problems and tragedies are our problems and tragedies.

Following the Fes [summit], the Arab nation entered a dark tunnel, and made us enter this dark tunnel with it. We in the Palestinian revolution and all the progressive and democratic forces in our Arab nation must declare this fact -- the fact of the dark tunnel that they made us enter. It is a dangerous tunnel involving assassinations, explosions, political conspiracies and [word indistinct] changes. It is no coincidence at all that following our return from Fes, Philip Habib and Draper came to the area. The earth began to shake and explosions and assassinations took place in Lebanon, from Al-Baddawi up to [word indistinct]. This was absolutely not a coincidence. We must realize this fact and its meaning. The plot is an indivisible whole. It is directed against our Arab nation and its main target is this rifle of the joint forces. The joint forces rifle gave this cohesion to our Arab nation. It is the exemplary revolutionary cohesion, which has no (?match), Brother Muhsin and Brother Ibrahim, in this Arab nation. [passage indistinct]

There are attempts now, which you must know about, to enhance Egypt's image [talmi' Misr]. I support the enhancement of the image of Nasirite Egypt. I am with Nasirite Egypt, its people, army and heroes. But I am (?against) those who [word indistinct] Camp David because our conflict with As-Sadat was not a (?personal) conflict, but a conflict with As-Sadat and with [words indistinct] the Camp David. [passage indistinct]

What I say, brothers, is very important because we must understand what is taking place in the area. We must understand that when I say 6 strange months, I mean what I say from my position of responsibility. There will be 6 strange months during which there will be another Vietnam. There will be explosions and Israeli attacks from Al-Awza'i -- and remember this word -- up to Beaufort Castle. You must remember these words. This is the [word indistinct] which they are speaking about. Time is between us and them, and they are welcome. [applause] They have concluded a strategic alliance with Israel and there is an American-Israeli strategic alliance. I want to tell them that if they want to again bring Bright Star, then the Bright Star will become the fading star here under the feet of the joint forces. [applause] The Bright Star might be Bright Star there, but when it comes here to this land, it will become a setting, fading and defeated star in front of the joint forces and in the face of this human, and national Palestinian will. This must be known by those who are near and those who are far away. [applause]

Habash Speech

NC132157 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1635 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Speech delivered by George Habash, PFLP secretary general, at a speech rally held today at the Arab University of Beirut on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the PFLP -- recorded]

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the PFLP anniversary, permit me to greet Syria, which is standing fast [applause] in the face of plans to make it bow down to imperialism and Zionism. Permit me to greet Syria, our ally in our national battle against the plots of Camp David. For us and the Lebanese National Movement, Syria constitutes a main support in confronting the Zionist, imperialist and isolationist plans for the land of Lebanon.

On this occasion, also permit me to greet all the states of steadfastness, particularly during this period when the U.S. administration is threatening the Libyan revolution with aggression. [applause] Permit me to say in your name that the Palestinian revolution will fully stand by the Libyan revolution in the face of this aggression.

We greet the socialist organization's states, mainly the faithful friend, the Soviet Union [applause], the friend of our Palestinian and Arab peoples.

Undoubtedly, any study of the world situation as a whole, any study of the Arab situation at this time and any study of the Palestinian situation will indicate that imperialism wants to turn back the wheels of history, destroy the victories of the peoples, prevent the peoples from achieving new victories and create [word indistinct] even inside the socialist organization, even if it were to put all the world on the brink of an atomic war. This is a fact we must take into consideration when thinking about the next year and the coming years, until a blow is dealt to Reagan similar to the blow which the Vietnamese people dealt [words indistinct]. This is the general feature of the imperialists' (?international) Arab and Palestinian plan.

Habash Interview on Anniversary

JN111720 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1515 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Interview with PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash on the PFLP's 14th anniversary -- live or recorded; place not given]

[Text] [Question] How do you view this developing political situation in the post-Fes period, both on the Palestinian and regional levels?

[Answer] As you know, the first and the most important item at the Fes summit was the proposal by Prince Fahd regarding what you can call a solution to the Palestinian problem and the solution to the Middle East struggle. Of course, it seems the reactionary forces in the summit were hoping that the conference would give an OK to the proposal. As you know, from this point of view, the summit was a complete failure for them, for the reactionary forces. It was a great victory for us, for the people. Therefore, we should ask ourselves what we expect after the failure of the conference.

On the Palestinian level, I expect that pressure will continue on the leadership of the PLO, political pressure and sometimes military pressure, because the reactionary forces are so anxious to settle the Middle East question according to their own points of view. I mean by this that the reactionary forces are waiting for the moment when they can really make alliances with America on one side, and also with Israel, as Camp David, as As-Sadat did. This is very essential for them, for the future. Now [in] this phase, we expect that pressure will continue, political pressure and sometimes there will be military pressure.

The situation in Lebanon for example has been quiet for the past few months. I think it has been quiet because the imperialists -- America and Israel -- werewaiting for the results of the Saudi pressure on the PLO leadership and they were expecting this pressure to succeed. Now they see that this pressure was not a success. Therefore, I expect that they will use military pressure every now and then. And as we said about the situation during the past year, there will sometimes be military pressure, as happened for example in March, 1978; as happened August 1981, this will be accompanied by political pressure. King Hassan said the plan did not fail and the plan is no more a Saudi Arabian plan; it is a plan for the Arabs. What does this mean? It means that they will continue their pressure. If political pressure does not succeed, they will follow it, as you can say, with military pressure. This is regarding the Palestinian question.

Regarding the regional question, the same thing [is true]. As you know the situation in the Middle East is a part, actually, of the world situation. On the world level you notice that American imperialism is escalating its aggression by all means and that is why we expect aggression in this part of the world also.

America's plan was to make an alliance between the Arab reactionary forces, America and Israel. This was very clear in the Camp David agreement. Of course, Camp David did not succeed except on the Egyptian front. All right, America asked itself: what should we do? The solution was Prince Fahd's proposal, because America through Camp David has taken Egypt, Sudan, Oman, Somalia along with it. But what about the rest? It can be concluded by Prince Fahd's proposal that America wants final and total, or you can say comprehensive, domination. That is why we are expecting, actually, an escalation in American aggression. For example, we must open our eyes to what will happen on the Libyan front. Also we have to open our eyes to what is going to happen on the Syrian front and on all the fronts of the steadfastness front states and (?forces).

[Question] Since the time the Popular Front was under the PLO Executive Committee, how do you evaluate the front's role within the structure of the PLO?

[Answer] Well, I will leave it to you, to the Palestinian organization, to the Palestinian people to evaluate this role. But what I can say about the role is this: We told our representative that he should be always very aware of the political program and of the organizational program that was issued or agreed upon in the 14th Congress and in the 16th Congress. Because if you go to these programs -- and I wish that our leadership would read these programs every now and then, and I wish also that the Palestinian people every now and then would also read these programs.

We told our representative, Comrade Abu Mahir, who is well known on Palestinian level and who is a member of our Politburo, we told him that we have to be very faithful to every word in these programs because on such occasions, I think we draw the most acceptable programs and the most correct programs. Really. In a democratic atmosphere, we reach correct conclusions in general. Our role in the PLO Executive Committee is to make ourselves, to make everybody, remember what was agreed upon. This is a very important job because, frankly speaking, we notice every now and then that some people forget what we have agreed upon. For example, on the organizational level, on the political level we reached two very keen and very correct decisions. Let these decisions be executed.

[Question] Comrade Habash, what is the recently held PFLP Fourth Congress, and [what does] this 14th anniversary mean in terms of the front's accomplishments and the accomplishments of the whole Palestinian resistance movement?

[Answer] Regarding detente, the fourth congress actually means a lot for us, for the simple reason that we did not discuss only the political situation. The political document was only one of four documents submitted to this congress. I regard the organizational document, which is an internal document, as a very important document because, as you know, it is not enough to draw a political line only, to draw the correct political line. You have to think very very much of the tool, of the organization that will be able to accomplish these programs. In that congress we stressed this point for a long time, and I think we registered that although the PFLP has made real organizational progress, we have a new organizational aim. We are aiming at a front to build real revolutionary members, real revolutionary cadres. We are very keen about this, especially when we consider the situation of the Palestinian revolution, the situation of the National Lebanese Movement. I think any Lebanese citizen or any Palestinian citizen is very much [word indistinct] at this particular moment to feel and to see that the people, the members, the cadres who are talking revolutionary talk are really revolutionaries themselves. Our people became so keen about this problem and we gave this problem a lot of our (?standing) in the fourth congress. Of course, the most important document was the political document. This document, you can say, presents a new level regarding the front. I think it has many things to say to our Palestinian people, on the Arab level, on world level and on the Palestinian level. I cannot actually answer your question exactly and to the level I would like because of the problem of time, of course. But if you take, for example, our political stand on the Palestinian level, we did not only consider the present political situation. We reviewed the process of the Palestinian revolution during the last 15 years. We have drawn important lessons from the last 15 or 16 years. Of course at the present moment we are seeing that these results, whether on the organizational level, on the military level or on the political level, will be put into real practice.

'ARAFAT TOURS MOBILIZATION CENTERS, GIVES SPEECH

JN111730 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has praised the high revolutionary discipline demonstrated by the cadres of the Palestinian revolution whether in the popular organizations, institutions or camps. Speaking to hundreds of cadres today at a complex of 11 centers quickly set up to absorb the general mobilization cadres, Abu 'Ammar said: I wagered on your quick mobilization. The officer in charge mobilization said we did not have enough time, but I challenged him and told him that you would carry out the mobilization in record time. So here you are now. You have done it in 6 hours, from 0800 to 1400 today, which calls for utmost pride.

This clearly shows that our revolution is all right and our Arab nation is also all right. We are the symbol of the Arab nation. Our nation, which faced the challenge with the Egyptian people, can always face challenges. As-Sadat thought that he could cow our people and rub the honor of the great Egyptian Army in the mud. However, this army, which As-Sadat thought he could cow, produced men who toppled the Egyptian pharaoh.

On the other hand, the Zionist enemy also thought that it could cow our people in the occupied territory. But our people faced the enemy with one surprise after another. Despite all savageness, coercion and terrorism, our people astonished the enemy by continuing its uprising for the sixth week.

We are on this land which has been baptized by blood. We in the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces are not only fighting in defense of ourselves and Lebanon, but also in defense of the Arab nation so that it will eventually join us in the (?battlefield), and I am sure that it will do so.

Today, I can, through you, carry out a mobilization operation and with it challenge Begin, Shamir, Sharon and their master Reagan. I issue this challenge with strong will and revolutionary determination despite the grave situation in our Arab region. I feel that we can create victory.

We are in a dark tunnel. Political information and military plots are being implemented against us. There are also continuous explosions. This chain of incidents was carried out suddenly and on a large scale to confuse us and to preoccupy and exhaust us. But I state here that I will not withdraw a single fighter from the south. Every area will fight with whatever it has. I am saying this so that everyone, far and near, will hear me. Nobody can make this revolution kneel. Nobody can deprive this revolution of independent decision, influence it or tamper with it. This revolution will triumph with you and through you. It is a revolution until victory.

Further Report

NC120852 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Yesterday the brother commander in chief [Yasir 'Arafat] spent the day inspecting the forces of the 1982 general mobilization course. He was accompanied on his tour by the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army, the official in charge of the general mobilization, and the brother members of the mobilization authority.

During his tour, the commander in chief visited the general mobilization camps and met with the trainees and their trainers. He gave instructions on the level of training and the kinds of weapons used in the training courses. The commander in chief decided that the training should include modern weapons, heavy and light artillery, RPG, mines and handgrenades.

While in these camps, the commander in chief made a speech in which he greeted the sons of the revolution and of the Palestinian people, who have responded to the call and who have reported to the general mobilization camps.

Talking about the political situation, he said: The general mobilization of all the sons of the Palestinian people is our revolutionary reply to the big conspiracy aimed at this Palestinian rifle, which has broken the logic of submissiveness and of the denigrating fait accompli in the Middle East.

Your revolution, which was begun by a Fatah fighter in 1965 by means of the bullets which broke the barriers of fear, silence and the inferiority complex, now stands against all challenges, strongly upholding the will of your people and the decision of your independent Palestinian people.

This heroic rifle deters anyone from containing the decisions made by this revolution, and no one can impose his will on us and on our decision, which comes from the bottom of struggle of the people, people who have stood in the face on the strongest challenges and plots.

Through their struggle and through the will of their fighters, our Palestinian people write the history of this part of our Arab homeland, and this land will not always be the stage for imperialist plots and Zionist attacks.

In the name of the fighters of Palestine I salute our people who have risen against occupation, our people in the West Bank and in Gaza who are now facing Sharon and his settlement and occupation plans. The general mobilization, which we announced today, is to create the armed and fighting people, the strong fortress against the plots of the enemies.

If Washington thinks of implementing the plans of Draper and Habib to strip this revolution of its strength and its masses we answer them: Do not threaten us with the Israeli aggression. Our destiny is to stand against this aggression until we check it and overcome it. We are confident that the blood of our people, which covers the land of Palestine and the land of the Arab nation, will not be wasted. This is the life of our glorious Arab nation. Allow me to greet you for your quick response to the call of the general mobilization and to tell you: Through you, this revolution stands fast and through you the determination of our people struggling against the Israeli occupation becomes stronger. Revolution until victory.

VOP REPORTS AGENDA FOR 'ARAFAT'S VISIT TO GREECE

NC130837 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will begin an official visit to Greece tomorrow at the invitation of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou. During the 3-day visit, the talks will concentrate on strengthening PLO-Greek relations in various spheres, as well as Arab-Greek relations.

The talks between Brother 'Ammar, who will be accompanied on the visit by PLO political department chief Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] and a high-ranking delegation from the PLO Executive Committee, and the Greek prime minister will begin tomorrow, Monday, afternoon following a working lunch to be given by Prime Minister Papandreou.

Shortly after arriving [in Athens] the brother commander in chief will place a wreath on the Unknown Soldier's Memorial.

On Tuesday, Brother Abu 'Ammar will participate in talks with leaders of the Greek political parties and will continue his talks with the Greek leader on Wednesday before departing from Athens.

On the evening of his official visit to Greece, Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar told the Greek television that there is no European initiative at present for resolving the Palestinian problem. He explained that Greece is that state that is more qualified for playing the role of mediator between the PLO and the European Community.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also said that during his talks with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, he will touch upon the statements pertaining to the Venice declaration recently made by French Minister for External Relations Claude Cheysson during his visit to the Zionist entity.

Brother Abu 'Ammar expressed his readiness to play the role of mediator for resolving the Cyprus problem if the sides concerned request him to do so.

Meanwhile, the Greek deputy minister to the prime minister on press issues, Dhimitrios Maroudhas, has said that Greek radio has decided to soon start broadcasting a newscast in the Arabic language as symbolic proof of the seriousness of rapprochement between Greece and the Arab world. Maroudhas also said that this action is dictated by the firm relations between Greece and the Arabs.

FATAH'S KHALAF ASSAILS CHEYSSON TEL AVIV REMARKS

LD111348 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0728 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Dec (KUNA) -- Salah Khalaf, member of the Fatah Central Committee, the largest of the Palestine resistance groups, has called on the Arab countries to reconsider their agreements with France particularly with regard to oil and finance, in the light of recent statements by French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson in Tel Aviv.

Speaking at the opening of a trade union seminar at the PLO office in Kuwait last night, Salah Khalaf denounced "France's complete alignment with Zionism" and called on the Arab states "to reconsider Arab-French relations, particularly with regard to the employment of Arab oil revenues."

He said the statements made by Cheyyson do not befit a minister of a country "with relations, connections and treaties with Arab countries, particularly the oil-producing countries."

These statements, he said "do not reflect a respectable policy." He described the policy of the French socialist government of President Franco's Mitterrand as "crooked" and said the French president has unmasked "his ugly Zionist face."

The Palestine resistance and the majority of the Arab countries have expressed astonishment at the statements by Cheysson in which he called on Europe to abandon any role they intended to play with a view to solving the Middle East crisis. He also reneged on the European Venice declaration which provided for the Palestine people's right to self-determination and the PLO's participation in the settlement of the Middle East crisis, saying, "It is now behind us."

Khalaf asked what attitude the Arabs will now take toward France, and said, "If we respect ourselves as a nation and as a people, we must reply to the French attitude by reconsidering all agreements with France, particularly with regard to oil and finance."

France relies on the Arab states for the major part of its oil needs.

Khalaf said the French position serves only to confirm what the Palestine resistance has repeatedly said: "There is no European initiative."

He also called on the Arabs to adopt "a stand toward the United States, because it is the United States that instigated Europe against the Arabs and forced it to serve Israel."

MINISTERS ISSUE FINAL STATEMENT 11 DEC

GF112039 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text of final statement issued by OPEC oil ministers at conclusion of 62d conference in Abu Dhabi, 6-11 December 1981]

[Text] The OPEC Ministerial Council held its 62d meeting in Abu Dhabi between 9 and 11 December 1981. Dr Man'i Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum and natural resources minister, opened the conference on behalf of UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

The conference was officially inaugurated by Dr Subroto, Indonesian mining and energy minister. The conference expressed its thanks for Dr Subroto's efforts in the service of the organization during the period of his chairmanship.

The conference unanimously chose Dr Man'i Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum and natural resources minister, as president of the conference and Eduardo Ortega Gomez, Ecuadorian natural resources and energy minister, as alternative president.

The conference reviewed with satisfaction the progress the long-term strategy committee has achieved under Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani. It was decided that the committee will continue its activities under the Saudi minister's chairmanship and that a report should be given to the conference by the committee.

The conference was informed of the report submitted on the proposal to establish an OPEC higher studies institute. It was decided that a committee of experts from the member states will further study this issue and submit a report to the conference's next regular session.

The conference was informed of the report on the special meeting of the council of the economic committee and of the committee on the market's financial situation.

The conference heard a report on threats against one of the member countries. The conference reiterated that any threat to any member of a purely economic nature compels the other members to support that country as stipulated by the organization's charter.

The conference endorsed the organization's 1982 budget and elected (Samuel Dosor Owart), the Gabonese governor, chairman of the council of governors for 1982 and Mr (Wefarso) as alternative chairman for the same period.

The conference expressed sincere thanks to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and to the UAE people for the hospitality which the delegations received and for the excellent facilities for the conference.

The conference approved resolutions which will be published in January 1982 after being approved by the member countries. The next regular conference will be held in May 1982.

SAUDI PETROLEUM MINISTER ON MEETING RESULTS

GF121048 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Dec (WAKH) -- Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi petroleum and mineral affairs minister, has announced that the resolutions of the current OPEC session are a new year's gift from OPEC to the world. He added that the organization's decision to lower prices on medium and heavy crude oil will certainly affect the price of gasoline. This will lead to lowering the price of oil from countries that are not members of the organization, such as Mexico, Malaysia, oil from the North Sea and others. He added that all oil will undoubtedly be affected by OPEC's current resolution to reduce price differentials.

In a press conference following the conclusion of the 62d OPEC meeting, Shaykh Yamani described the price reduction as substantial and special. He added that this covers the bulk of oil production in the Gulf area, particularly in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran and part of the UAE. Shaykh Yamani added that the current OPEC resolution to lower the differential implies that the trend at this time and in the near future will be toward lowering the differential as long as market conditions require.

The Saudi minister said he expects that the demand for oil will increase next year, because the oil companies and industrialized countries will continue to store oil until the first quarter of next year. They will have to use it later, and this will result in an increase in demand.

Shaykh Yamani noted that the long-term strategy involves planning for the next 20 years. He added that Iran and Iraq have different views regarding the strategic policy of setting prices. He said that Saudi Arabia adheres to a realistic and reasonable view and is trying to be objective and to present a flexible plan for pricing.

He noted that Kuwait made a great sacrifice at the conference by lowering its differential to the same level as Iranian oil. The Saudi petroleum and mineral affairs minister said he is pleased with the resolutions reached by the summit. He also pointed out that the implementation of these prices will begin on 1 January. He added that boycotting American companies is not the responsibility of the organization.

Regarding African oil, he indicated that the Nigerian price level, which is $36.50 per barrel, is acceptable. He added that Libya and Algeria, which will sell their oil at a minimum of $37 per barrel, will encounter some difficulties and may be obliged to lower their production. Actually, everything depends on the market.

Concerning Saudi oil production, he said that maximum Saudi production is 8.5 million barrels. He added that market conditions might require them to lower production. He concluded by saying that some conditions may require Saudi Arabia to review its position on its maximum production, but he thought that was unlikely.

UAE PETROLEUM MINISTER AL-'UTAYBAH ON OIL PRICES

GF121235 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 12 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] OPEC oil ministers ended their 3-day meeting in Abu Dhabi late last night and announced a wide range of price cuts.

The UAE petroleum and mineral resources minister, Dr Mani' Sa'd al-'Utaybah, who is also the OPEC president, said the meeting had emphasized the unity of OPEC and added further stability to the international oil market.

"I hope that in the coming few months we will see that the results will add real stability to the oil market and help the world economy in a practical way," Dr al-'Utaybah added. He said that when OPEC had agreed on its unified price of $34 at the Geneva meeting in October, it had been said that the differentials would have to be revised, and this had been done at the Abu Dhabi meeting.

The differentials are the varying amounts charged for oils of better and poorer quality than that of Saudi Arabian light "marker".

The overall result is that from January 1, the prices of most of the light crudes and that of the "heavy" lower quality will come down by a few cents.

Abu Dhabi's all three main grades will drop by 20 cents. Murban will be $35.50 per barrel, Zakum $35.40 and Umm ash-Sha'if $35.30. Dr Al-'Utaybah said these prices would be coordinated with similar cuts in the Gulf. He said that the Nigerians, who have been rapidly at $36.40. The Libyans and Algerians, who wanted the Nigerians to raise their price for their similar quality extra light oil would be free to charge between $37 and $38. They have recently been having difficulty in marketing their output at $37.50.

Dr al-'Utaybah said all prices would be valid until the end of 1982. Turning to the coming year, Dr al-'Utaybah said that the OPEC hoped the market would settle down, and from next summer demand would start firming up. "We think it will be higher than in the past year and this will help bring stability to the market and allow room for the countries who are now producing below the levels they would wish.

"We can certainly say that customers are assured there will be no price increase and they will be enjoying a peaceful time and can budget their bills through the year."

"This conference will also show that the OPEC is not in the business of simply increasing prices," Dr al-'Utaybah added.

The Saudi Arabian oil minister, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, said the lower prices were OPEC's christmas gift. "Cutting the price of the heavy oils will have an effect on the cost of fuel and in winter this will be a blessing. It will also put pressure on the petroleum prices," Shaykh Yamani added.

He said most of the heavy oil would drop by 70 cents and some by 50 cents. The bulk of the heavy oil production affected would come from the Gulf -- from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran and some from the UAE.

"Apart from Arabian light, every single [drop] of OPEC and non-OPEC oil will come down in price," said Shaykh Yamani. He thought that the African producers would enjoy a higher rate of production as a result of the price cuts. "Prices may drop even further. We are all Father Christmases," said Dr al-'Utaybah.

Referring to the conflict between the African producers, Shaykh Yamani said he was defending the Nigerian position of opting for lower prices throughout the conference.

"I think the $38 ceiling is a thing of history. Libya and Algeria will find it a little difficult to stay at $37. They will need patience and a lower level of production," Shaykh Yamani said. He said they would have to come back to the OPEC and ask for an extraordinary conference if they wanted to drop their price below $37. "That applies to everybody. It's the rule of the game," he added.

The ministers heard a report from Shaykh Yamani on the work of the long term strategy committee, of which he is chairman. "We did achieve some progress and have to carry out some additional studies," Shaykh Yamani said.

BAHRAIN

MINISTRY REPORTS ARREST OF SABOTEURS FROM IRAN

GF131407 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1345 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Manama, 13 Dec (WAKH) -- The Bahraini Interior Ministry today announced it arrested a group of Bahrainis and other Gulf nationals who came from Iran to Bahrain after training in Iran on the use of arms to carry out sabotage in Bahrain against vital installations and to seek to create anarchy and spread fear among citizens of our country, who enjoy peace and security. The target of this group also included senior officials of the government, the public security forces and the Bahrain Defense Force.

The statement said that radios and communications apparatus intended to be used by members of the group to communicate with each other were also apprehended.

The statement said preliminary investigations indicate that the plot was not aimed at Bahrain alone but also included other countries in the region. The statement said security forces are interrogating the arrested members of the group to uncover the full objectives and all details of the plot against the security and stability of the region and all citizens.

The statement said the Bahraini Interior Ministry has taken all possible security measures to safeguard the peace and security of citizens and public installations.

The Interior Ministry urged all citizens to assist the security forces to uncover the plot and to apprehend all those who are connected with it so as to safeguard their own security and to preserve the country's achievements.

The statement said that the Bahraini Government addressed a strong protest to the Iranian Government over these irresponsible actions which harm relations between the two countries and the security of the region and its citizens.

Official Protest Made

GF131621 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today summoned the charge d'affaires at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hasan Shushtarizadeh, and handed him an official protest over Iran's action in receiving, training and abetting the group of saboteurs referred to in the Interior Ministry's statement today, and requested an official clarification from the Iranian Government on this matter.

KUWAIT

NEWSPAPERS COMMENT ON U.S. LIBYAN RELATIONS

LD121737 Kuwait KUNA in English 1055 GMT 12 Dec 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Dec (KUNA) -- Extracts from Kuwaiti newspaper editorials Saturday:

KUWAIT TIMES on the U.S. Libyan war of nerves:

"The esclating war of nerves between the United States and Libya has reached a dangerously explosive point with President Reagan's virtual instruction to the 1,500 Americans in Libya to leave the country "for their safety", depite Libya's affirmation that there is no validity in the U.S.-created scare about danger to American residents, mostly oil workers, in Libya."

The centerpiece of the U.S.-Libya friction of late has been the U.S. allegation that gunmen have been sent by Libyan leader Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi to assassinate Reagan. Tripoli has promptly dismissed the American allegation as a prelude to more hostile acts against Libya. The U.S. allegation and moves are part of anti-Arab designs of the Zionist lobby which rules the roost in government circles in Washington.

"Meanwhile it is interesting and significant that a cross-section of Americans living in Libya have said they feel safe there and some Americans even scoff at the allegations that Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi has sent a hit squad to kill the U.S. President. A U.S. weekly has also reported that President Reagan is secretly sounding out West European countries on possible joint sanctions against Libya.

"Arab League's UN Ambassador Clovis Maqsud, [title as received] describing the U.S. allegation of a Libya plot on Reagan's life as 'unbelievable,' has made a very cogent offer that an investigation could be made by the UN Security Council and that the U.S. should participate in it. Tripoli has also welcomed a fact-finding mission from the Security Council or even the American Congress to ascertain what it called 'false allegations'."

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on the UN and the U.S.-Israeli rejection:

"The UN General Assembly yesterday issued a resolution demanding an Israeli withdrawal from the Arab lands occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, and the establishment of a Palestinian state. The resolution also called for convening an international conference to deal with this issue to be held not later than 1984.

"Of course both Israel and the U.S., if we could separate between the two partners, have objected to this resolution. The world in the American cowboy's view means nothing. The international community is an unimportant bunch of retarded, frail people born only to (?submit) to the West and to provide luxury for the American-Israeli "superman." That is why Washington felt no shame while standing alone in favour of the Zionist usurpation, the scattering of the Palestinian people, and bulldozing the Arab human being in his land and dignity.

"Meanwhile, Washington was roaring because the Soviet Union was late in granting the wife of Jewish Sakharov [as received] an exit permit. The lady is Jewish but the press are slaves and as such they should be under the Israeli imperialism.

"That is why the U.S. is preparing for an assault on Libya in such an open and theatrical way. The American giant intends to hold a 'discipline party' in the region. For such purpose it created a whole movie picture on a story that gives the illusion that Col Al-Qadhdhafi will move his troops into the U.S.

"In spite of this, none of the American officials described this American act as that of terrorism. But for an Arab national to refuse to succumb to Israel and the American hegemony, then this is terrorism itself and this is the assault on the human rights since the human being is either American or Israeli."

SAUDI ARABIA

ROYAL COURT CONDEMNS IRAN EXECUTION OF POW'S

LD131842 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Dec 81

["Royal Court Statement" -- date not given]

[Text] The Iraqi Government announced that Iran executed 1,500 Iraqi prisoners after torturing them. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expresses its denunciation and condemnation of this abominable act committed by the Iranian regime, which is not permitted by the Islamic faith and runs counter to the Geneva Convention on the Treatment of War Prisoners. It contradicts the simplest bases of humanity and the teachings of the tolerant Islamic faith. God is the one who leads us to the right path and for us, God suffices and is the best disposer of affairs.

PRESS CRITICIZES CHEYSSON REMARKS IN ISRAEL

LD121032 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0725 GMT 12 Dec 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Riyadh, 12 Dec (SPA) -- AL-MADINAH and 'UKAZ criticized the French attitude, expressed by French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, vis-a-vis the Middle East question, which rejects the European initiative and criticizes the Venice declaration issued by the EEC summit.

AL-MADINAH describes Cheysson's statements as an attempt to leap over the Arab will and harm Palestinian rights at a time when every Arab and Palestinian was thinking that the attitudes of France have been crystallized in a very clear policy which supports the Arab right, rejects the Israeli intrasigence and condemns the Jewish occupation of the occupied Arab territories. It says that the French test balloon Cheysson released a few days ago over the skies of the Arab world may be due either to his lack of understanding of the vital interests of his own country or to his desire to discover the new Arab attitude at the Fes summit in the hopes of finding inter-Arab divisions. The paper writes that Cheysson's statements should not be regarded as a political coincidence that has been amended by an apology from the French foreign minister or by an invitation extended to a Palestinian official to visit Paris to discuss the new changes because these statements should be regarded as politically significant. AL-MADINAH says that the interest shown by President Mitterrand and the fact that he hastened to hold a televised press conference to clarify the continuation of Arab confidence in the government of President Mitterrand.

'UKAZ writes that from now on we cannot accept two languages -- a language dictated by submission to the Israeli lobby and another that seeks the friendship of the Arabs. It says that both France and the West are called upon today to define, without any ambiguity, their attitude toward the PLO: Do they regard the PLO as the legitimate respresentative of the Palestinian people, or not; do they recognize the necessity of Israel's withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967 including Jerusalem, or not; do they recognize the Palestinians' right to establish their own state on the liberated territories of Palestine, or not? The paper refers to statements made by the French officials regarding the national homeland for the Palestinians and says that in less than 6 months the French Government has retreated to the extent that the French foreign minister, Claude Cheysson, declared in Tel Aviv that France and its people will stand by the people of Israel if the latter are subjected to an attack. Cheysson did not say whether Israel [words indistinct] if the Arab embark on the liberation of Jerusalem or the West Bank or the Golan. 'Ukaz expresses its conviction that Cheysson's logic is wrong and is of a double standard unworthy of France, which had made the defense of human rights its policy. In conclusion 'UKAZ says that no matter whether this change is French or European, it is high time for the Arabs to agree on an Arab plan to move, to lay down the tactics of this plan and to assign the roles in this plan so that the Arabs can regain their usurped rights.

AR-RIYAD NOTES DANGER OF U.S.-LIBYAN 'DISPUTE'

LD120748 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0640 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] In its lead article entitled: "A Superpower and a Growing Confrontation," AR-RIYAD called for [word indistinct] in the Libyan-U.S. dispute in light of the crisis which took place between the two countries in the Gulf of Sidra and which led to the downing of two Libyan aircraft.

The paper warned against the Libyan-U.S. differences, which may drag North Africa into sharp conflicts between the two superpowers and in turn place the area directly under foreign influence. It said the two superpowers are looking for an excuse to impose the legitimacy of the usurpation of Palestine or Afghanistan, and to extend their domination and find new global positions for themselves.

The paper added that it is assumed that there should be rational consideration for the dangers of the consequences because it is not wise for a weak person to die under the wheels of a strong person only so people can say he was a martyr. AR-RIYAD expressed its belief that what is happening in various parts of the Arab world in the form of threats, or acts of provocation, or press headlines is nothing but an attempt to deceive the Arab citizen at the expense of the safety of each Arab state individually and the safety of all the Arab states and the Arab question.

PDRY

PFLP, LEBANESE CP OFFICIALS ARRIVE FOR TALKS

EA102044 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Brothers George Hawi, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party, and Taysir Qubba'ah, member of the Political Bureau of the PFLP, arrived in Aden this morning on a visit to Democratic Yemen that will last several days.

Brother George Hawi told ADEN NEWS AGENCY that the purpose of his visit to Democratic Yemen is consultation with the YSP leadership on the latest developments in the Arab nation, on the tasks of the progressive forces at this stage and on the need for their unity in order to confront the hostile forces of imperialism at the international level. He added that his visit is also to discuss the mounting American aggression against the Arab nation, as manifested by the American military maneuvers, and the Fes summit.

He said that he would discuss with the YSP leaders the circumstances of the mounting imperialist-backed Israeli threats against Lebanon, the Palestine resistance and the forces which are striving to preserve Lebanon.

Brother Taysir Qubba'ah, member of the Political Bureau of the PFLP, also spoke to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY. He declared the front's solidarity with Democratic Yemen and its readiness to confront any external aggression violating its sovereignty.

He also pointed out that the purpose of his visit is to discuss issues facing the progressive forces in the Arab region following the intensification of the American imperialist onslaught as represented by the Bright Star maneuvers which took place in Egypt, Somalia, Sudan and Oman and by the flagrant acts of aggression against the PDRY. He said he will discuss these issues with the YSP leaders. He stressed that the states in the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front are capable of foiling these plans and maneuvers.

The men were received at Aden international airport by Brothers 'Ali Ba Dhib, member of the Central Committee and deputy prime minister; Rajih Salih (Naji), candidate member of the Central Committee and deputy secretary of the Central Committee; and a number of party and state officials.

PRESIDENT MUBARAK 13 DEC PRESS CONFERENCE

NC131512 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA) -- At noon today, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met at the Al-'Urubah Palace with the delegation of the foreign correspondents accredited to the United Nations. The interview, which was attended by Information Authority Chief Muhammad Haqqi, lasted about 1 hour. At the beginning of the meeting, President Mubarak announced his readiness to answer questions.

The following is the text of the press conference:

Question: Mr President, will there be any change in Egypt's policy particularly after what happend on 6 October, which has been a shock to Egyptian society?

Answer: I can say that what happened on 6 October and led to the assassination of departed leader Anwar as-Sadat was a tragedy to all of us in Egypt and, I believe, to the entire world, because Anwar as-Sadat was a brave man and a man of peace. This will not lead to a change in Egypt's policy. Egypt will continue its present policy, but there might be some changes in methods. The transfer of power has been very smoothly completed in accordance with the Constitution. We have begun practicing normal life and we are thinking about finding solutions to our domestic problems, particularly the problems of the economy, which is a main problem in Egypt. You can feel the extent of the reaction following the death of departed President Anwar as-Sadat.

Answering a question on the release of political detainees in Egypt, President Mubarak said: The question of a release or nonrelease rests with the judiciary. The judiciary will release all politicians against whom nothing is proved. They will be released in accordance with an order by the judiciary. We do not object to this. The interrogation of those who have any connection with the assassination case will continue.

Asked whether there will be a change in the Egyptian line, the president said: I do not believe there will be a change in the line that Egypt followed during the term of President Anwar as-Sadat, but there might be some controls in accordance with the Constitution.

Asked whether he believed that his new position as the president of the republic could lead to his isolation from the masses, the president said: I would like to say that there are ethics and customs on which I have been brought up. I will not change them and I cannot change them. I meet with significant and with insignificant people. I meet with the man in the street. I cannot be isolated from the people, since I am one of them.

Concerning a question about the U.S.-Libyan crisis and its developments, President Mubarak said: I do not have sufficient information on this subject. I do not want to comment on it now, because I do not have sufficient information.

Concerning the celebration marking the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, the president said: I have been asked this question more than once. When we celebrate or Egypt celebrates the Israeli final withdrawal from Sinai, then Egypt will be celebrating the day of peace. It will not only be celebrating the evacuation of the territory, but we will consider it as the day of peace between us and Israel. I do not believe that our celebrations will be exciting to the extent that some believe.

Answering a question on the appointment of a vice president, Mubarak said: I am not in a hurry to appoint a vice president. The Constitution does not set a time limit or dictate that I appoint a vice president immediately. Therefore, I have not yet thought about appointing a vice president. I would like to have enough time to chose the person who will become the vice president and who will be accepted by the people. I cannot set a date that is better left to circumstances.

Concerning a Cabinet reshuffle or change, I see no reason for this now so long as the ministers are proceeding with the implementation of plans and tasks assigned to them. I do not want change for the mere sake of change; I want stability. In this respect, we will act as any other state that changes a minister because of his failure to carry out the tasks assigned to him. We will act as any other state in the world.

Asked about what the Christians in Europe have been saying about the status of the Christians in Egypt, President Mubarak stressed that the Christians in Egypt have been living as brothers with the Muslims for hundreds of years. This is nothing new and there is no special status for Christians or Muslims. Both Christians and Muslims are, before anything else, Egyptians who are carrying out their business as Egyptians on the land of the Arab Republic of Egypt with no difference between one or the other. All the rumors being spread about the position of Egypt's Copts are biased rumors aimed at creating disturbances in the Republic of Egypt. We are not prepared to accept the creation of such disturbances.

Replying to a question on the appearance of some Egyptian police forces around vital installations and police stations, the president said that their appearance near police stations in Cairo will gradually vanish. It is natural that following the assassination we should take precautions for a time. However, calm prevails at present. In the wake of the assassination operation and the detention of the heads of the sedition I believe that it is obvious that there are no disturbances in the country.

To a question on the presence of Egyptian forces along the border with Libya, President Mubarak said: I have declared more than once that we are not prepared to launch a war against an Arab state. We have ended the war with Israel and we have declared that there shall be no war after the October war. This was announced by the departed President Anwar as-Sadat. We have also embarked on peace with Israel and have begun establishing relations with Israel. I do not believe we are contemplating a war with any neighboring state. There are no troops for the reason that some imagine along the border between us and Libya. We will absolutely not start a war with any Arab state. We are not war lovers.

To a question on the statements which [PLO Chairman] Yasir 'Arafat made in the wake of the French external relations minister's statement that there will be no European initiative, the president replied: I will leave it to Yasir 'Arafat to comment on this. As for myself, I shall wait because the French external relations minister will visit Egypt soon. I will hold discussions with him and will learn if there is anything new or not. As for brother Yasir 'Arafat, he has made many comments. He made comments in Japan and then changed his comments in Baghdad and changed them yet again in Syria. I do not wish to comment on such statements.

Answering a question on whether the family of the [former shah of Iran] will remain in Egypt, the president said: We are a country of principles and values. When the decision was made to accept the family of the [former] shah, we respected the decision and we will not change it.

Asked about Egypt's position regarding the nonaligned states when it has special relations with the United States, the president said: We are one of the founding states of the Nonaligned Movement. There are many nonaligned states that have relations with the Soviet Union -- old relations -- and which might not have relations with the United States. Likewise, there are some nonaligned states that have strong relations with the United States but do not have relations at the same level with the Soviet Union.

We deal with all camps provided the dealings are at the same level -- I mean dealings on an equal footing. We have relations with the United States -- economic and military relations. We cannot deny this. The United States also gives us effective aid. However, we do not have relations to the same degree with the Soviet Union. But this does not mean that we are not a nonaligned state.

Regarding the role of the peacekeeping force in Sinai, President Mubarak said: The peacekeeping force indeed has a role in the peace process. Its duty is stipulated in the 1978 peace agreement.

Concerning Europe's role in the peace process, the president said: The role of Europe is [word indistinct], constructive and important in the peace process. Its strengthening of the peace cannot be denied.

Asked whether he received invitations to visit Israel and the United States and whether he was likely to visit some European states, the president said: I have received invitations to visit many states in Europe, the United States and Israel. But the dates for the visits have not yet been fixed. However, I intend to visit the United States and perhaps one or two states in Europe. I cannot set the dates, but I might be able to in January. However, I will definitely visit West Germany and France. I also cannot fix the dates for these visits but I also intend to visit some other European countries.

Asked what he expected about the restoration of relations with the Arab states and the return of Arab ambassadors to Egypt so that Egypt can become a center of Arab forces, the president said: I do not want to comment on or speak about when Arab ambassadors will return to Cairo because this is a matter better left to them. Egypt has been, still is, and will continue to be a center of the political forces in the Arab region. Why else has there been this great interest by the entire world in Egypt and by the Arabs themselves, who demand the restoration of Arab cohesion. The freezing of relations between us and the Arab states that took place after the agreement with Israel does not mean that there is a complete estrangement. On the contrary, Egypt is an open country and many citizens from Arab states often visit Egypt because of the many ties between Egyptians and the rest of the Arab nation. Air and sea communications between us and most of the Arab states, with the exception of a few, such as Syria, Libya and Iraq, continue.

To a question about Egypt joining OPEC, President Mubarak said that when the time comes for Egypt to join OPEC, it would certainly do so for there is nothing to preclude this when inter-Arab relations are restored.

Asked about Egypt's relations with the African states, President Mubarak said that Egypt's relations with the African states are strong and its contacts with the heads of the African states are constant and there is nothing to obstruct them.

To a question on the seriousness of the rate of population increase in Egypt and the manner in which family planning is applied, President Mubarak replied: We are aware of this problem and are trying every means to ease its acuteness because it is linked to a certain extent with religion, some men of religion oppose it. However, we are trying to solve it by looking at it from a different angle.

Asked what he expects from [French] President Mitterrand, President Mubarak said: We expect a lot from President Mitterrand. I met him after he was elected president. I told him verbatim: We are aware that you have a special and strong relationship with Israel. We are not sensitive about this at all, rather we are glad that you, as presidebt of the French Republic, have a good relationship with Israel because this will naturally help a great deal in the peace process. We expect much from him, therefore, and we are aware that President Mitterrand is one of the presidents who strongly supports the Camp David framework. We appreciate this.

Asked his view on the economic problems in Egypt and how to resolve them, President Mubarak said: I cannot now say anything or talk about economic solutions. However, I can say that we are giving the economic problem top priority.

It is the subject that preoccupies us now. I have asked many economic experts in Egypt to study the economic situation. All these economists will meet, and other economists in Egypt can also meet and hold seminars, so that we can achieve an economic policy to follow to resolve Egypt's economic problems. This policy will be studied by all parties and all citizens in Egypt. However, Egypt is not the only country that has an economic problem; all the world has economic problems. America has an economic problem; Britain has an economic problem; France has economic problems; Europe is full of economic problems; and Israel has economic problems. This is not an overiding concern, but we must take steady steps toward resolving this problem.

STATE PROSECUTION RELEASES SEVERAL DETAINEES

NC121515 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA) -- The supreme state security prosecution, under the chairmanship of State Security Prosecution Counselor Raja' al'Arabi, today decided to release Muhammad "Abd as-Salam az-Zayyat and 16 other defendants in Case No 442 for 1981 of the Supreme State Prosecution. They had been accused of communicating with a foreign country, forming an antigovernment organization and issuing statements against the government.

The group, which was released today, includes former Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad 'Abd as-Salam az-Zayyat, Cairo University Information College Professor Dr 'Awatif 'Abd ar-Rahman, 'Ayn Shams University (?Girls) College Professor Dr Latifah 'Abd as-Salam az-Zayyat, former Supply Minister Dr Fu'ad Mursi Haddad, the editor of AKHBAR AL-YAWM, Faridah 'Abd al-Mu'min an-Naqqash, former Planning Minister Dr Isma'il Sabri 'Abdallah, consultative engineer and former People's Assembly member Dr Mahmud Ahmad al-Qadi, former People's Assembly member Kamal Ahmad Muhammad, ROSE AL-YUSUF journalist Muhammad 'Abd al-Fattah 'Awdah, lawyer Dr 'Ismat Sayf ad-Dawlah, denistry college Professor Dr Muhammad Kamal 'Attiyah al-Abrashi, Culture Ministry Under Secretary Dr Muhammad Ahmad Khalafallah, former People's Assembly member Abu al-'Izz al-Hariri, lawyer 'Abd al-Azim al-Maghribi, editor of AKHBAR AL-YAWM Hasanayn 'Abd ar-Razzaq and lawyer Muhammad Sabri Mubadda.

The prosecution released these defendants for lack of sufficient evidence against them. The supreme state security prosecution had concluded the investigations into the case and then issued its decision.

It is known that the number of defendants in the case is 22. The prosecution today released 17 [number as received] of them. Four of the defendants are abroad. One defendant -- former Irrigation Minister Eng 'Abd al-'Azim Abu al-'Ata -- has died.

Public (prosecutor) counselor [word indistinct] Ar-Rashidi held a meeting today attended by the head of the supreme state security prosecution, Counselor Raja' al-Arabi, and the members of the prosecution who had carried out the investigations. The results of the investigations were reviewed during the meeting.

The defendants were placed in custody at the beginning of last September until Socialist Public Prosecutor Counselor Ahmad 'Abd al-Qadir 'Ali submitted their papers to the supreme state security prosecution to investigate the charges brought against them.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1333 GMT on 13 December reports that Socialist Public Prosecutor Counselor Ahmad 'Abd al-Qadir 'Ali today issued a decision lifting custody on the 17 defendants accused of communicating with a foreign country. MENA then lists the names of the defendants involved. This list contains an additional defendant's name, "Dr Aminah Ibrahim Rashid, professor at the Cairo Literature College."]

OCTOBER SAYS CHAD REQUESTED GOVERNMENT AID

NC120811 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA) -- Egyptian Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador 'Imran Shafi'i has stated that during the Chadian justice minister's meeting in Egypt with senior Egyptian officials last week the Chadian Government's request for available financial and material aid was discussed. This aid request was for rebuilding the Chadian Army and training its members to enable it to exercise its duties in safeguarding the unity and independence of Chad and in defending it.

In a statement to OCTOBER magazine, which will be published in its Sunday edition, Ambassador ash-Shafi'i said that Egypt has expressed its readiness to provide some services demanded by the African peacekeeping force in Chad in order to exercise its duties there. This will be in keeping with the message that OAU Secretary General Edem Kodjo had sent for contributions to bolster this force and in view of the fact that this is considered the first equipment of its kind to form an African peacekeeping force.

GHALI MEETS WITH SASSON ON COPTIC CHURCH AFFAIRS

NC131556 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec 9 (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today summoned Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sasson following a meeting which Dr Ghali held with Anba Vasilios, Copitc Orthodox Bishop of Jerusalem and the Near East.

Anba Vasilios expressed to Dr Ghali his great dissatisfaction with and protest over the Israeli authorities' attitude toward the Egyptian Coptic Church. Anba Vasilios said that the Israeli authorities' bad attitude toward the Egyptian Coptic Church is represented by the nonadoption of any step to return Dayr as-Sultan [ancient monastery] in Jerusalem to the Egyptian church, despite the numerous efforts and contacts, and by the Israeli authorities' seizure of two pieces of land in Jerusalem owned by the Coptic Church. The church has also submitted a request to construct a new building for the Coptic Church in Jerusalem. But despite the passage of 4 years, no license has been issued so far.

Anba Vasilios explained that in view of this Israeli stand, the church considers that Egyptian Coptic pilgrims cannot leave for Jerusalem and that the patriarchate's decision to ban travel to Jerusalem will remain in effect until the holy places [al-muqaddasat] return to their legitimate owners.

Dr Ghali affirmed the Egyptian Government's interest in the rights and status of the Egyptian Coptic Church in Jerusalem and promised to give these issues all its attention.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUES

Communique No 549

JN111637 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA) -- Last night and today, our brave forces inflicted on the Persian enemy in the various operational sectors more than 580 killed and 6 tanks and a large number of vehicles and equipment destroyed. Communique No 549 issued by the Armed Forces General Command said that the Iraqi units dealt fresh blows to the forces of the criminal Khomeyni clique, asserting their resolution to wrest our legitimate rights to the land and waters. The communique said that at dawn today, the Iraqi forces pounded on the Persian enemy, which had tried to attack our units in the Sumar and Gilan-e Gharb regions, and engaged it in a fierce battle during which it sustained heavy losses in lives and equipment. Known enemy losses in front of one of our units in the Sumar region amounted to more than 500 killed. The communique added that the battles were still raging when this report was drafted and that enemy losses will be announced in subsequent communiques.

The communique pointed out that the aircraft of the Iraqi forces today raided enemy positions and concentrations in the central and southern sectors of the operational theater, scoring direct and effective hits. All our aircraft returned safely to base. The text of the communique is as follows:

Communique No 549 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With each passing day, the victories of the forces of Saddam's al-Qadisiyah increase and lessons in courage and steadfastness are given, thus refuting the enemy's false claims of fictitious victories. Our forces are today dealing a fresh blow to the forces of the criminal Khomeyni clique, asserting their resolution to wrest our legitimate rights to the land and waters. The outcome of the military operations last night and today was as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. At dawn today, the Persian enemy tried to attack our units in the Sumar and Gilan-e Gharb regions. Our forces pounded on the enemy and engaged it with various weapons. Fierce battles ensued during which the enemy sustained heavy losses in lives and equipment. Known enemy losses in front of one of our units in the Sumar region amounted to well over 500 killed; 7 vehicles, 5 of which were loaded with soldiers, destroyed; and a number of personnel captured. The enemy also sustained a large number of its personnel killed, wounded or captured and four tanks destroyed in front of one of our units in the Gilan-e Gharb region. The battles were still raging when this communique was drafted. We will provide you with more details in subsequent communiques.

B. Our forward units pounded with various weapons enemy positions and concentrations in front of their positions in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd], killing 47 and destroying 1 armored personnel carrier, 3 vehicles, 1 excavator, 5 stockpiles of hardware and 3 observation posts.

C. One of our forward units sighted an enemy personnel concentration in front of their positions in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region and hit it with various weapons, killing 18.

D. Ten killed and two tanks; two vehicles, one loaded with hardware; two excavators; and two stockpiles of hardware destroyed in the Abadan region.

E. Three killed and one observation post destroyed in the Mimak region in front of our positions in Sayf Sa'd.

F. Two killed in the Shush region.

G. One excavator destroyed in the Mehran region.

H. Our aircraft today raided enemy positions and concentrations in the central and southern sectors of the operational theater, scoring direct and effective hits. Fires and explosions broke out. All our aircraft returned safely to base.

Thus, the total known enemy losses amount to well over 580 killed and 6 tanks, 1 armored personnel carrier, 12 vehicles, 4 excavators, 7 stockpiles of hardware and 4 observation posts destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Eight martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One tank, two vehicles, three mortars and three rocket launchers damaged.

Communique No,550

JN121828 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Communique No 550 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 12 October 1981]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In defense of the glorious past, the prosperous present and the optimistic future of the great Iraqi people, the faithful sons of Iraq continue their fierce fighting armed with determination and deep faith in inevitable victory against the forces of grudge-bearer Khomeyni, who is practicing his rancor by means of his treacherous aggression against Iraq and the glorious Arab nation.

Following is the outcome of the military activities in the operational theater last night and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our valiant units last night and this morning launched a wide-scale attack against the defeated enemy forces in the Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar regions. Following fierce battles, our forces managed to crush and destroy the remnants of the enemy, forcing them to retreat after sustaining grave losses in life and equipment, the known part of which amount to well over 1,200 dead and large number's of wounded and captured. Our forces also destroyed 14 personnel carriers, 4 carrying soldiers and 1 carrying hardware; 8 tanks; 17 vehicles, 9 carrying soldiers; 4 guns; 8 excavators; 4 stockpiles of hardware and 5 observation posts. Our forces captured a large quantity of serviceable arms. These were the losses reported by the competent quarters when this communique was issued. The battles are continuing, and we will furnish you with more details in our subsequent communiques.
B. One of our units stationed in enemy territory pounded the enemy forces violently in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region, killing 26 and destroying 2 vehicles, 1 gun, 9 stockpiles of hardware and 1 observation post.
C. Twelve were killed and one vehicle was destroyed in the Abadan area.
D. Three were killed in the Nowsud area.
E. Two were killed and one excavator was destroyed in the Shush area.
F. Two were killed and one vehicle was destroyed in the Dezful area.
G. Our brave eagles attacked enemy positions and units in the central sector of the operations theater, inflicting grave losses on the enemy's armored cars, vehicles and troops. Two enemy F-14 fighter planes were downed in a dogfight over the Gilan-e Gharb region. Our planes, except for one which fell in enemy territory, returned safely to base. We hold the Iranian side responsible for the safely of its pilot.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to well over 1,255 dead, a large number of wounded and many captured as well as a 8 tanks, 2 fighter planes, 14 personnel carriers, 21 vehicles, 5 guns, 9 excavators, 13 stockpiles of hardware and 6 observation posts destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 49 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One personnel carrier and two vehicles damaged.

Communique No 551

JN131700 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA) -- For the 3d consecutive day, the Iraqi forces continued to strike at the defeated Iranian enemy in the Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar regions, killing 454. This came in Communique No 551 this evening on the results of the military operations during the past 24 hours. The communique put the total enemy losses at 564 killed, large numbers of wounded or captured and 1 tank, 1 personnel carrier, 4 vehicles, 2 guns, 1 excavator, 2 stockpiles of hardware and 2 observation posts destroyed. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 551 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With God's might and with faith in the principles and values of the great Iraqi people and the glorious Arab nation, the forces of justice and victory continue to strike at the forces of charlatanry and arrogance in Iran as long as their regime persists in its hostile course, ambitions and insistence on disrespecting our sovereignty and rights. The following are the results of the activities carrier out in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. For the third consecutive day, our valiant forces continued to strike at the defeated enemy forces in the Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar regions, dealing to them painful blows and inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment. The known losses counted by the competent quarters at the time this communique was prepared amounted to 454 killed, large numbers of wounded, several captured and 1 tank, 2 vehicles and 1 gun destroyed.
B. A force belonging to our forward units raided the enemy positions and concentrations in the Nowsud region. It clashed with them in a fierce battle after which the enemy was forced to leave its positions, leaving behind 43 killed. Quantities of intact weapons and hardware were seized by our forces.
C. A force belonging to our forward units attacked the enemy positions and concentrations opposite our positions in the Shush region and clashed with them using all weapons, killing 13 and and destroying 1 vehicle and 1 gun. Seven enemy troops were also killed and one observation post was destroyed in the same region.
D. Our forward units pounded the enemy positions and concentrations opposite our positions in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region, killing 24 and destroying 1 personnel carrier.
E. Nine killed and one vehicle, one excavator, two stockpiles of hardware and one observation post destroyed in the Abadan region.
F. Seven killed in the Mimak region opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
G. Five killed in the Ahvaz region.
H. Two killed in the Dezful region.

Thus, total known enemy losses amounted to 564 killed, large numbers of wounded, several taken captive and 1 tank, 1 personnel carrier, 4 vehicles, 2 guns, 1 excavator, 2 stockpiles of hardware and 2 observation posts destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 34 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Two vehicles damaged.
C. Today, the Persian enemy shelled the Basra region with heavy artillery.

Citing a military source in the Gilan-e Gharb sector, the report asserts that the remnants of the Iranian forces are retreating, leaving behind their dead and large quantities of medium and light weapons and stockpiles of hardware. The source said that the battles raging at the Gilan-e Gharb front are fierce and added that the Iraqi fighters showed great ability in destroying the enemy's attempt to attack the Iraqi forces and that they faced large numbers of enemy armor and infantry with great courage, inflicting heavy losses on them and forcing them to retreat.

SAUDI KING CONDEMNS IRAN'S EXECUTION OF POW'S

JN131912 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA) -- His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-Aziz of Saudi Arabia telephoned President Saddam Husayn today and expressed his strong denunciation and condemnation of the Iranian regime's ugly crime of executing Iraqi POW's.

EXTRADITION OF PALESTINIAN REAFFAIRMS U.S. ENMITY

JN132131 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Palestinian struggler Ziyad Abu 'Ayn arrived in occupied Palestine today after the U.S. authorities transferred him from his prison in Chicago to the city's airport last night. Reports received from the occupied territory said that the Zionist occupation soldiers led Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to an unknown prison after his arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport.

By extraditing the Palestinian struggler to the Zionist enemy despite all Arab and world calls not to, the United States reaffirms its enmity to the Arabs and its absolute and unlimited support for the Zionist entity and its needs.

INA ON FIGHTING IN GILAN-E CHARB, SUMMAR 12 DEC

JN121019 Badhdad INA on Arabic 0950 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA) -- An INA correspondent has quoted a local military commander in the Gilan-e Gharb region as saying that the losses sustained by the Persian enemy as of late this morning have reached more than 1,000 dead.

The correspondent, who is now near the battlefield, added that clashes are still continuing and that Iraqi forces in the area are opening heavy fire on the Persian enemy forces, inflicting more human and material losses on them.

The correspondent learned that two enemy Phantom planes were shot down this morning in a dogfight over Gilan-e Gharb. Citing eyewitnesses, the INA correspondent said that the two planes were seen crashing in flames inside Iranian territory. The correspondent added that Iraqi forces continue to be in control of the situation and to advance toward enemy targets and that all available evidence shows that the enemy is sustaining heavy losses.

The military communique issued by the Armed Forces General Command yesterday stated that our units in Sumar and Gilan-e Gharb attacked the enemy in wake of its attempts to attack our units at dawn yesterday, and that Iraqi forces engaged the enemy with all kinds of weapons.

The communique also stated that fierce battles took place during which the enemy sustained heavy human and material losses and that know enemy losses opposite one of our units in Sumar have reached more than 500 dead, 7 vehicles loaded with soldiers destroyed and several captured.

The INA correspondent in the central sector of the battlefield has learned that Iranian POW's have been transferred from the battlefield and that those wounded were transferred to hospitals for treatment.

SOURCE REFUTES IRANIAN WAR CLAIMS IN HIGHLANDS

JN111814 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA) -- An authoritative Iraqi source tonight described the Iranian enemy's claims of seizing and controlling several heights and villages located inside Iranian territory as pure myth and deception. In a statement to INA, the source said: These heights and villages which the Iranians claim to have regained "do not have any Iraqi forces, in them and Iraqi forces never entered them during the battles with Iran which have been raging for more than 15 months."

The authoritative source asserted that resorting to lies and deception has become a recurrent and firm trend in the conduct of the Iranian side to cover up its losses and daily defeats in the battlefronts. He added: "The search for fictitious victories seems to have become the required tune in the ignorant Iranian regime to justify the state of intransigence and false arrogance and divert attention away from the tyranny, suppression and destruction that is rampant in all walks of public life."

ATH-THAWRAH WAR CORRESPONDENT ON FIGHTING

JN131033 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA) -- A report published in ATH-THAWRAH by its war correspondent at the front says fighting is raging in the hills and heights at the Gilan-e Gharb front for the 3d consecutive day. The report adds that the Iraqi forces are chasing the remnants of the retreating forces from several axes.

HUSAYN CHAIRS CABINET SESSION ON FRENCH POLICY

JN131615 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn at noon today presided over a Cabinet session devoted to discussing and evaluating the French stand and its repercussions and dimensions in light of recent statements by senior French officials on the Middle East crisis in general and the Palestine question in particular.

During a 2-hour session, His Majesty King Husayn reviewed Arab-French relations since the June 1967 war. He referred to the course taken by the late French President de Gaulle in rectifying Arab-French relations and promoting them to the level of constructive cooperation within the framework of mutual interests and in accordance with the principles of right and justice and a belief in the importance of achieving a just peace in the Middle East outside world power blocs.

His majesty outlined the positive results of the policy pursued by the Pompidou and Giscard D'estaing administrations and the Palestine question and Arab-French relations. That policy, he emphasized, eliminated France's negative picture in the Arab mind, a picture engraved by the Sykes-Picot agreement of the colonial era and later manifested in the tripartite aggression against Egypt and the colonial war against the Arabs in Algeria.

His majesty the king expressed his concern about the negative impression created by the statements made by senior French officials during and after Claude Cheysson's recent visit to Israel. This, he said, is a serious indicator of the general political line followed by the socialist French Government toward the Middle East.

And, in light of the discussion that followed a review of the various political reports submitted to the Cabinet, it became clear to the government that this new French line is a serious reversal of France's stand, because it torpedoes the main bases on which Europe's Middle East policy is founded. It is a deviation from the Venice declaration, which the European states produced as part of their duty toward this region, which is directly linked with European interests. It is also a deviation from all the principles and bases on which a just and honorable peace in the region can be founded, beginning with the principle of the impermissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and ending with a people's right to self-determination.

Accordingly, the Jordanian Government sees in the French officials' statements an impediment to European efforts to effectively participate in crystallizing a balanced European initiative. It also considers them an attempt to destroy all the hopes the Arabs pinned on Europe in general and France in particular to help establish a just peace in the region. Moreover, the Jordanian Government considers them an act aimed at supporting Israel, world Zionism and all sides working for internationalizing struggle in this region at the expense of the freedom of this region's peoples and states. Therefore, these statements are a threat to the region's states, Europe and world peace as well as a distortion of the internationally recognized facts and principles pertaining to the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable national rights to their national soil.

The Jordanian Government also believes that the recent French stand is largely aimed at blowing up the credibility of European policy in the Middle East -- a credibility which the European group has worked hard to build up through the last 10 years in its capacity as a homogenous international group. The recent French stand gives the impression that the policies of this group are drawn up and determined by one of its states. We expect the European states in the group to rectify this before it is too late.

The Arab states, which have worked hard for years to build Arab-French relations on sound, expanded and lasting bases, should seriously, quickly and decisively reconsider their policies in light of their threatened interests and France's regrettable challenging and unexpected stand toward their just causes.

The session was attended by Ahmad al-Lawzi, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court. His Majesty King Husayn spent some time earlier in Prime Minister Mudar Badran's office.

GOVERNMENT REGRETS U.S. DECISION ON JORDANIAN

JN131908 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] The Jordanian official spokesman has stated that the Jordanian Government has received with extreme regret and concern the U.S. decision made on 12 December, 1981, to extradite Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to the Israeli authorities. Jordan, represented by its King, government and people, regrets this decision. It is also regretted by millions of Arabs who have trusted and who still trust the justice of the U.S. judicial system. Jordan has discussed the issue of Abu 'Ayn on more than one level in order to reach an acceptable end to this human issue within the framework of friendship and mutual understanding among states and within international aims and norms. Based on its international commitments, the Jordanian Government has made high-level and quick efforts in its contacts with the U.S. State Department to explain the legal aspects connected with the just Abu 'Ayn case. The Jordanian Government has affirmed that the extradition of Jordanian citizen Abu 'Ayn to a third party is illegal and that he should be handed over to his country, Jordan. The Jordanian Government pointed out that this issue does not go beyond the political and legal framework of resisting the occupation. The Jordanian Government deeply regrets the failure of all these efforts.

The extradition of Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to Israel to try him is a strange action. The U.S. Government and the civilized international community know how the Israeli authorities violate the political rights of Arabs under occupation. They also know that the Israeli judiciary in all its manifestations and acts represents only more oppression and the expulsion of Palestinian Arabs in the occupied territories. Abu 'Ayn's trial will only enhance the sanctity of the cause for which he will be tried. He and thousands of other noble prisoners kept in Israeli prison dungeons are exercising their civil and political rights by resisting the occupation in accordance with international principles and conventions, particularly the fourth Geneva agreement of 1949. The Jordanian Government hopes that the U.S. Government will reconsider its decision in order to preserve the mutual relations and interests between the Arab nation and the U.S. people. The Jordanian Government hopes that Abu 'Ayn will eventually be handed over to Jordan because it is his country and homeland.

COUNCIL STATEMENT ON EXTRADITION, IRAQI POW'S

JN141233 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] The National Consultative Council [NCC] in a statement issued today denounced the extradition of Ziyad Abu 'Ayn to the Israeli enemy. The NCC said that this U.S. action scorns Arab sentiments and harms U.S.-Arab relations and U.S. interests in the Arab homeland.

The NCC stressed that struggler Ziyad Abu 'Ayn was extradicted for political considerations and that the United States had previously refused to extradite an Irish citizen to the United Kingdom since his case was a political one. This applies fully to Abu 'Ayn's case.

The NCC expressed appreciation for the efforts exerted by His Majesty King Husayn, the Jordanian Government and the Jordanian information media to defend Abu 'Ayn's case.

The NCC called on Arab countries to achieve some measure of effective Arab solidarity to confront the provocations and threats against the Arab world and the Palestinian cause.

The NCC also condemned the Iranian authorities' execution of Iraqi prisoners, which is considered a blatant violation of human rights and conventions and contradicts Islamic teachings.

The NCC also denounced the new French policy on the Middle East cause and expressed full support for the steps that the Jordanian Government has adopted to confront this change in French policy on the Arab cause.

EEC'S VEIL MEETS SENATE PRESIDENT AT-TALHUNI

JN121301 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Senate President Bahjat at-Talhuni received this morning President of the European Parliament Simone Veil.

During this meeting, At-Talhuni explained Jordan's constant stand on the Palestinian cause and the basic principles on which this stand is founded. He also explained to Mrs Veil the prominent stages of the Palestinian cause's march, the European countries' stands on this issue and Jordan's stand on the solutions that are being submitted in the international arena to settle the Palestinian cause in a manner that will safeguard the legitimate rights of all the parties concerned. At-Talhuni stressed that Jordan rejected the Camp David accords because they had fragmented Arab ranks and expressed the opinion of only one Arab country, a matter which the Arabs rejected in the Baghdad summit.

The Senate president said that Jordan hopes that Europe will take the initiative to develop its stand in a practical manner that will support a just and lasting peace in the region.

Mrs Simone Veil and Bahjat at-Talhuni this morning visited Schneller refugee camp in the suburbs of Amman. Mrs Veil met with the camp's notables and expressed to them the EEC's readiness to help in seeking a just and lasting solution to the Middle East cause that will safeguard the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. She also reiterated the EEC's belief in the need for the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland and their right to self-determination in their homeland. She added that Europe would do its best to reduce the problems that the Palestinian people are facing in the present circumstances.

Meets Crown Prince Hasan

JN121634 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Amman, 12 Dec (PETRA) -- His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received in his office this morning Simone Veil, president of the European Parliament. His highness gave an illustrated briefing on the Israeli policy of settlements and the Arab citizens' conditions and sufferings under the occupation. He expressed hope that the European group would contribute to finding a just solution that would guarantee Arab rights and the Palestinian people's legitimate right to determine their future.

The meeting was attended by Senate President Bahjat at-Talhuni.

King Receives Veil

JN122007 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite court this evening Simone Veil, president of the European Parliament. During the meeting, his majesty reviewed the developments and dimensions of the Middle East problem and the nature of the challenges facing the region.

He stressed the importance of rebuilding the bases for a just and comprehensive peace that will guarantee Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the sacred rights of the Arab people of Palestine to decide their fate and future including their right to establish an independent state on their national soil. His majesty stressed that Israel's annexation of the city of Jerusalem is categorically rejected by Arabs and Muslims and by world public opinion and UN Security Council resolutions. Occupation of Jerusalem, his majesty added, must end so that the city may become a symbol of peace. His majesty refuted Israel's claims that it is in need of security. He stressed that the Arabs, not Israel, are in need of security. Israel, he added, is using pressure and terror against the Arab people in the occupied territories. It attacked the Iraqi nuclear reactor, launched repeated aggressions against Lebanon and aided Iran against Iraq.

His majesty also said that the Israelis are not serious about establishing a comprehensive peace in the region. The Arabs, he said, have accepted all initiatives aimed at realizing a comprehensive and just settlement since 1967 while Israel has always rejected such initiatives. He called for bringing pressure to bear on Israel by all friends. He said the Camp David agreements are finished.

His Majesty King Husayn expressed his dissatisfaction with statements by European officials on the [Palestinian] cause and the Venice declaration.

Simone Veil affirmed the interest of the European states in the Middle East situation. She said that, through the Venice declaration, Europe has proved that it seeks to realize a just peace in the Middle East. She expressed Europe's interest in His Majesty King Husayn's continued efforts to find a just and permanent solution in the region.

The meeting was attended by Senate President Bahjat at-Talhuni.

Veil Makes Statement

JN131316 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] European Parliament President Simone Veil, left Amman this morning at the end of a 4-day official visit to Jordan.

In a predeparture statement, Veil said her visit was a good opportunity for meeting with His Majesty King Husayn, Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister and the Senate president. She added that she and Jordanian officials held lengthy talks on all issues of interest to the European council and to Jordan and on cooperation between them. Veil said that both sides are currently holding contacts and consultations for promoting these relations and for jointly acting in the international arena to achieve a just peace in the Middle East.

Simone Veil added that the subject of how to achieve peace had been the core of the intensive talks she had held and which focused on the fact that peace in the region must be achieved and that the security of every state should be respected as well as the human rights within these states.

Commenting on Simone Veil's statement, Senate President Bahjat at-Talhuni said: Simone Veil's visit to Jordan was a good opportunity for her to become acquainted with Jordan's unswerving policy which is based on major points stemming from the UN Security Council resolutions and those from the Arab summits. His Majesty King Husayn, and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan had stressed to Mrs Veil that Jordan's policy is based on two major principle: the complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem and granting the Palestinian people their legitimate right to establish sovereignty over this homeland.

AL-WAZZAN, 'ARAFAT MEET IN BEIRUT 13 DEC

NC131952 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] At his home in Ar-Rawshah [in Beirut] at 1915, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who was accompanied by Fatah Central Committee members Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid] and Abu al-Walid [Sa'd Sayil]. Discussion centered on the overall situation in Lebanon and the recent developments on the Arab and international levels.

Following the meeting, 'Arafat said: This meeting complements previous meetings, the most recent of which was the meeting that took place with President Sarkis and Prime Minister al-Wazzan in Ash-Shabaniyah prior to the Fes summit conference. I want to say something: What happened at the Fes summit, although it is a cause of pain for me. [incomplete sentence as heard] However, here on this good earth -- and I call it the good earth because it carries the pains of the Palestinian revolution and the Arab nation -- we must say to these heroic Lebanese people: Thank you.

'Arafat added: In our opinion and on the basis of our Lebanese-Palestinian relations, we do not believe that the Fes conference has failed. However, we say that the Fes conference has produced a result, which is more joint Palestinian-Lebanese action to confront these difficult situations through which all of us are passing, be they the Israeli military concentrations or the Israeli threats against steadfast and heroic southern Lebanon and against the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause.

'Arafat said: As I have said, this meeting complements previous meetings so that we may discuss how to confront and think together and how to unify our forces to confront all these current developments in the Arab arena which, whether we like it or not, have repercussions on the Palestinian and Lebanese arenas.

Despite all that is happening, I am optimistic about the outcome of these meetings. I sincerely implore God to make these meetings successful, especially so we may give what we can to the masses of the Lebanese people who have suffered a great deal in recent years. All of us must work to ensure all means of assurance and comfort for these masses. At the same time, we must not forget that we are facing a ferocious enemy who is using all his information and military means.

Al-Wazzan Statement

NC131955 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: I do not have much to add to what brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has stated, especially when we are continuing the consultations and the contacts which Lebanon, Palestine and the Arabs dictate for us in the present delicate circumstances through which we are passing.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan added: We are in dire need of coordinating all our stands because we cannot afford these days to make any mistake on the Palestinian, Lebanese and Arab levels. We are called upon by national, Arab, Palestinian and Lebanese duty to coordinate to the greatest extent and to come together. This is the framework in which we embarked in the past, in which we are continuing, and in which we must continue in the future.

AL-WAZZAN STATEMENT ON SECURITY SITUATION

NC111342 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis met today with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus. During the meeting they discussed the available report on the dimensions of the deterioration in the security situation. They also discussed the measures that can be adopted at all levels under the existing circumstances as well as the stand that Lebanon will adopt at the UN Security Council meeting Wednesday to discuss the extension of the UNIFIL mandate in southern Lebanon. Lebanon will emphasize that the extension of the UNIFIL mandate must be associated with measures that will enable the UNIFIL to implement the aims of UN Resolution 425. In reply to a question after the meeting Prime Minister al-Wazzan said:

[Begin recording] In fact, I held two meetings with His Excellency President Sarkis today. His excellency the foreign minister attended the first meeting during which we discussed certain issues related to the implementation of the UN Resolutions, particularly Resolution 225, the extension of the UNIFIL mandate, and the Lebanese stand that insists that the UNIFIL must play an effective role unlike what it has played so far to enable it to implement Resolution 225. We also discussed the Fes summit resolution that supports the withdrawal of Israel from the border strip in southern Lebanon. During the second meeting we focused on the security situation. I have told his excellency the president that I have called the internal security council for a meeting tomorrow at 1100 to discuss further measures to halt the deterioration in northern Lebanon and here. We are all required to avoid any deterioration in the situation especially because we are seeking to establish calm. Every time we achieve some quiet and stability evil hands, regrettably, disturb security again and torpedo all hopes and reassurance.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency the Prime Minister, have you found any explanation to this increasing have of explosions and en masse assassination?

[Answer] What do you want me to say? What you want me to say is well known to everyone. We feel we are victims of a continuous plot against us. We cannot alone stave off all the outside forces collaborating against us, particularly Israel. Therefore, we insist that the United Nations assume its responsibilities and that our Arab brothers share with us these responsibilities.

LIBYAN ENVOY COMMENTS ON LEBANON, U.S. ISSUES

NC121938 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Report on Voice of Lebanon interview with Libyan Ambassador 'Abd al-Qadir Ghuqah, member of the People's Committee of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau, on the "People's Parliament" program on 12 December]

[Text] Ambassador Ghuqah began his discussion by conveying thanks to the officials in BAYT AL-MUSTAQBAL and the Voice of Lebanon for sponsoring this advanced method of dealing with Arab and international questions, namely, the method of dialogue instead of fighting. He said: I hope the circle of dialogue will expand to include everyone. I also hope we will be able to tackle our questions with farsightedness and to reach complete understanding.

Concerning the situation in Lebanon, he said: We believed and continue to believe that Lebanon was a model for pan-Arab togetherness, culture and progress. To us, it is painful to see the killing and destruction in the country, which can only be in the interest of the common enemy. Since the beginning we have been eager to rescue Lebanon from its ordeal, because in that is the deliverance of all of us -- Syria and Libya and the Palestine and the Arab questions. Lebanon's wound is a continuous one in our body. When peace comes to Lebanon, we will be safeguarding all the Arabs, because the fighting cannot be confined to one place. We support every call for accord and dialogue.

Asked his opinion about the recent Phalangist initiative, he said: In fact, I want to be frank. Many initiatives have been presented from the East and from the West aimed at solving the Lebanese crisis. I no longer believe an initiative is a solution, but it is the will behind the initiative. We agree with several points of the Phalangist initiative. What is important is the implementation. I absolutely believe that dialogue remains the preferred way of solving a crisis. We attach great hope in deeds, not words. I repeat again, we agree with several points in the Phalangist initiative.

Asked what prevents holding a dialogue, he said: We hope a dialogue will take place and initiatives will be presented to all parties. This explains the delay in presenting a Libyan initiative. We have sought to bring about an agreement among all the parties on this initiative. In order for the dialogue to be serious, the Lebanese sides must act. This is what we are seeking. It is useless to say we will adopt the method of dialogue while the shelling and the car boobytraps are continuing. What is important is to arrive at what will secure Lebanon's entity and its integrity.

I do not believe any Arab state can prevent a dialogue with the Lebanese. I was very pleased when the Voice of Lebanon invited me to this dialogue.

Asked about the Libyan initiative, he said: So far, there is nothing called a Libyan initiative. Let us go back a little. Libya previously proposed what might be called tendencies for tackling the Lebanese question. We were seeking the massing of all Arab resources. However, the Libyan initiative, if it can be called that, calls for:

1. The abolition of political sectarianism. It is not permissible to maintain sectarian partition. This would be in Lebanon's interest.

2. The adoption of the method of dialogue and the removal of the imaginary borders between the eastern and the western areas of Beirut. The two areas must be one, as they have been throughout history.

3. The achievement of accord among the Lebanese factions.

4. All the Arab countries must endeavor to end this tragedy. We have in fact begun to follow this course.

Asked whether the Libyan stand is in line with the Syrian stand, and whether Libya will play a role with Syria in tackling the security situation, Ghuqah said: We are in conflict with one enemy and all forces must be united to maintain our entity. He added: I challenge Israel culturally vis-a-vis Lebanon. I challenge Israel with another logic: I call for the establishment of a civilized and not a sectarian state in Palestine. Our alliance with Syria is strategic. We are against violence in Lebanon and support the legitimate government and its sovereignty. The Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] came to Lebanon at the behest of an Arab resolution. I believe in the existence of an Arab responsibility toward amending or replacing the ADF. I (?maintain) that the disruptions of security are aimed at hindering Lebanese and Arab accord.

Regarding Libyan-U.S. relations, Ghuqah said: We are very astonished at the level the United States has reached. No sensible man can accept such a negative accusation that a coup will take place in a certain country in 6 months. We are enemies of the United States despite our will. We are trying to achieve progress in our country and the United States wants us to be agents.

As for his expectations regarding developments between the United States and Libya, Ghuqah said: All objective assessments are no longer of any value to the United States. However, we are ready for all eventualities. We will not submit to the United States in any way.

Answering questions from the audience on whether dealings can be begun between Libya and Lebanon despite the existing gap, Ghuqah said: This is what we are seeking.

Regarding the recent hijacking of the Libyan airliner, Ghuqah said: His eminence Imam Musa as-Sadr was a personal friend of mine, and I was pained by his disappearance. I pray to God for his return. However, I am (?very sorry) that the issue over the imam is being used as a pretext. We would like all Lebanese, Arab and Islamic efforts to be concerted to unravel this issue. We are ready for cooperation on this issue.

Asked whether the Libyan information given regarding the imam is final, Ghuqah said: We offered absolute cooperation in this issue and there will be no change in our method.

Asked his reaction to the release of the airliner's hijackers by the ADF and whether it will affect Syrian-Libyan relations, Ghuqah said: This behavior will not affect our relations with Syria.

Asked about differences between Libya and the Palestinians, he replied: I am unaware of any differences.

Asked why Libya is opposed to Prince Fahd's plan and the Fes summit conference, Ghuqah answered: Prince Fahd's plan is the other side of the Camp David accords.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 2015 GMT on 12 December adds that "on relations with the United States, Libyan Ambassador 'Abd al-Qadir Ghuqah said: We support every effort for restoring normal relations between the two countries. However, we have the right to defend ourselves. We will not submit to the United States. We are prepared to join the Warsaw Pact if necessary"]

PRIME MINISTER: NEW SECURITY FORCE TO BE FORMED

NC121229 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] In reply to a question in an interview with the weekly AL-USBU' AL-'ARABIA, the newspaper magazine, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has announced his rejection of the withdrawal of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] at this time because, as he said, we are still in need of their presence and services.

Asked about his views on Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil's overture, Al-Wazzan said: This overture has been submitted to the Lebanese functionaries and not to the government.

Asked about the work of the Arab Followup Committee, Al-Wazzan said: We are now tackling the formation of a Lebanese security force that will be stationed on the line extending from the Sodeco up to the port, provided that the gunmen withdraw to the hinderland of the eastern part as a quid pro quo for the other gunmen's withdrawal to the hinderland of the western part [of Beirut], so that only the legitimate forces represented by the Lebanese security force as well as the ADF will remain on the lines of contact.

He pointed out that the government is focusing its interest on forming a Lebanese security force to which no side will object. There are objections to including elements from outside the internal security forces in this force. The formation of this security force, which will be under my personal supervision, will stabilize the cease-fire in the market area and will enable us to open the Sodeco road and Fu'ad Shihab bridge. These routes are now closed because of sniper fire. Al-Wazzan also answered several other questions on current issues.

BOMB IN BEIRUT KILLS BOY, INJURES FOUR 13 DEC

NC131330 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Anxiety continues to dominate the general situation in Tripoli and the north for fear that incidents similar to those which occurred in the area during the past few days should recur.

In Beirut, explosions and irregular incidents continue. A bomb which exploded in Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq this morning killed a boy and injured four others, including a woman who was removed to the university hospital while the others were removed to Al-Barbir hospital.

At 1215, Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over Beirut. Soon afterward, the sound of shooting was heard in the southern suburb.

The internal security forces directorate general has announced that it will give a valuable financial reward to whoever identifies the person in whose hands a bomb exploded in Mar Ilyas area in Tal'at Shihadah at 1830 yesterday and a picture of whose face was published in today's newspapers.

AMAL, COMMUNISTS CLASH IN BA'LABAKK DISTRICT

NC140911 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] In the Timnin al-Fawqa village, in the Ba'labakk district, noticeable tension has been prevailing in the wake of the clashes, which took place yesterday and continued until early this morning, between the Amal movement and the communists because of a dispute over wall stickers.

According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, these clashes resulted in the killing of Wa'i ad-Dirani of the Amal movement and the wounding of three communists.

PHALANGE, ADF EXCHANGE ARTILLERY FIRE IN BEIRUT

NC120900 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Concerning the security situation, the Phalangist gangs increased their provocations against the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] yesterday evening. Early today the axes of the capital burned from Bisharah al-Khuri up to the harbor when the Phalangist gangs directed their artillery fire and missiles against the ADF positions, which returned the fire.

TISHRIN COMMENTARY ON U.S. THREATS AGAINST LIBYA

JN121013 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Damascus, 12 Dec (SANA) -- In a commentary today, TISHRIN comments on the false U.S. accusations levelled against the Libyan Jamahiriyah. It stressed that the Libyan Government's policy of liberation worries the U.S. administration and constitutes a source of apprehension which the United States is trying to end through direct or indirect plotting and aggression.

The paper said that accusing Libya of intervention, terrorism and hostility is only a justification for a subsequent U.S. policy which the U.S. administration intends to carry out.

The paper went on to say: Since the world's peoples were not convinced by U.S. allegations against Libya, President Reagan's administration, organs, intelligence, information media and diabolical machine moved on to a new phase of false accusations about terrorism and assassinations being carried out in the world by Libya. It must be pointed out that the word terrorism is a flexible and ambiguous word. The Salvadoran revolutionaries, for example, are considered by U.S. policy to be terrorists because they are staging an armed uprising against the ruling clique. The Americans also consider Cuba a terrorist country because it helps the national liberation movements in Central and South America. Consequently, the Americans consider every people, regime or person defending his homeland, resisting U.S. imperialism and its collaborators and struggling against exploitation and hegemony to be a renegade terrorist. Hence, President Reagan discovered that the Libyan Government is a renegade and terrorist government meriting punishment.

The paper added: The U.S. Government and its monopolist companies have threatened to boycott Libya economically. Thus, the United States has retracted its claims and those of its allies that politics have nothing to do with economics. It has become clear that the United States uses this slogan in accordance with its interests. Otherwise, why has it in the past denounced the using of oil as a weapon in the Arab battle, and why is it now threatening Libya with an economic boycott, particularly in oil purchases?

In conclusion, TISHRIN said that, even if the economic boycott succeeds and if the capitalist European states respond to it, it will not be enough to change Libya's policy, especially since Libya has sufficient assets to complete its development process. The United States knows this quite well. Although direct and indirect military intervention is not ruled out, it must be stated that this intervention is a double-edged weapon, because the world comprises not only the United States, but also the Libyan Jamahiriyah and others, including Arab, African and Asian peoples, as well as other progressive forces. The world is also larger than the White House Oval Office, which is the headquarters of a U.S. administration possessing a diabolical machine.

ATH-THAWRAH WARNS FRANCE OF POLICY CHANGE

JN120718 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Press review]

[Text] ATH-THAWRAH says: The serious turning point in French policy on the Middle East and its bias in favor of Israeli aggression against the Arab nation raises many questions on the reasons behind this sudden change of principles on which France bases its foreign policy. The latest French step, which became apparent in statements by Claude Cheysson, French external relations minister, and through France's participation in the multinational force, show that France does not understand the realities in the region or the changes that have occurred for the following reasons:

First, this step contradicts France's interests in the Arab homeland and its relations with Arab countries, because any harm done to Arab interests and any support for Israeli aggression against the Arabs and their rights can only be confronted with measures commensurate to this serious stand and its results.

Second, the French step constitutes a major retreat from the basic trends that French Governments have tried to entrench in formulating an independent French role qualified to lead European policy. The French policy that Cheysson defined during his latest visit to the Zionist entity and French participation in the Sinai force has not been content with only cancelling an independent French role but also has wiped out the possibility of any European initiative and it deprives the EEC countries of any influence in the Arab region. This cutting down to size of the French role in particular and the European role in general will not serve French and European interests.

Third, this step places France in a subservient position to the United States. This trend has become evident through France's support for the Camp David accords and the retreat on the balanced French policy that successive French Governments have tried to maintain. This subservience to U.S. policy creates sizable difficulties for French policy and raises obstacles to a French move at the international level and to equal relations between France and other countries. What is strange is that this reversal in French policy, made by the current French Government, cannot be reconciled with the principles the socialists proclaimed during their election campaign.

These principles, which Claude Cheysson has described as sacrosanct, reject the forcible seizure of land and reiterate the need to give the Palestinians their legitimate rights, particularly their right to establish an independent state on their own national soil. These principles have been reversed by the French policy being implemented by Claude Cheysson himself. Otherwise, how can we explain his latest statements during his visit to the Zionist entity, which included a complete retreat on the Venice declaration and full agreement with Camp David and the logic of the Zionist aggression, since he said that France and Israel have identical viewpoints on Camp David and that Europe must leave Israel in peace and forget any thought of establishing an independent Palestinian state in the region?

ATH-THAWRAH concludes: In observing the grave turning point in French policy and its effects on Arab-French relations, the Arab nation hopes that French officials and those who practice a far-sighted and realistic French policy will not forget the basic interests of France and Europe in the region and that they will remember the rewards France obtained during its tilt toward Zionist aggression against the Arab nation in 1956. Because French policy toward the Arab nation is uncalculated, its results will inevitably be very serious and also not calculated. These steps will seriously harm France and the future of its relations with the Arab homeland.

ISRAELI AGGRESSION, HABIB MISSION LINKED

PM111425 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 7 Dec 81 pp 1, 11

[Political editor article: "Israeli Threats Assume Military Form; Plan Includes Southern Lebanon in New Projected Conspiracy"]

[Text] Israel recently stepped up its threats against Syria and the Palestinian resistance.

This escalation is taking place during U.S. envoy Philip Habib's tour of the area in which, through contacts with parties in the occupied territories and with certain Lebanese parties, he is trying to produce a plan for the demilitarization of southern Lebanon.

Observers believe that the timing of Zionist threats to coincide with Habib's tour and the leaked reports about the plan, which provides for the demilitarization of southern Lebanon, confirm the link between Habib's mission and the anticipated aggression against Lebanon.

The U.S. envoy, who yesterday concluded his talks in Saudi Arabia, is likely to return to Lebanon today to continue talks begun with senior Lebanese officials at the beginning of his fourth tour of the area.

While the enemy Cabinet yesterday heard a report by Zionist Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir about the outcome of Habib's talks in the occupied territories, the Zionist enemy radio confirmed that Israel has threatened the Palestinian resistance organizations in Lebanon with a large-scale military intervention if the cease-fire in southern Lebanon is violated.

It is probably obvious that Israel always uses the pretext of a so-called "violation" of the cease-fire to attack Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance in the south. But what is significant indeed is the talks about a demilitarization plan which Habib is currently trying to materialize, a plan rejected by the Palestinian resistance since it was offered in Lebanon as a commodity for sale under the name of a U.S. peace plan.

Apparently the final touches are being put to this plan, which is an extension of the policy of emptying the south of both population and arms. If this fails, Israel's recourse to force with U.S. approval will be the immediate alternative.

The question is: Will the policy of threats and aggression have the opportunity to succeed? The answer has already come from a Palestinian official who declared that the Palestinian revolution absolutely rejects the plan for the demilitarization of south Lebanon. The source said that joint Palestinian and Lebanese forces will not retreat a single step and will not give up a single position or even a single gun in southern Lebanon.

The sources said in this regard that U.S. envoy Habib is trying to work with certain Lebanese quarters in order to formulate a demilitarization plan in southern Lebanon and, consequently, evacuate the Palestinian revolution's advanced positions and disarm them on the pretext of bringing the area under Lebanese Government control.

VOICE OF LEBANON CITES CLASHES IN ALEPPO, HAMAH

NC121338 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Scores of people were killed and injured in fierce battles in Aleppo and Hamah between the Muslim Brotherhood and Syrian special units. A number of buildings were demolished with their occupants inside during the search for Muslim Brotherhood members.

The Voice of Lebanon has received information that Aleppo has been living in an atmosphere of artillery, machinegun and rocket shelling for 3 days, particularly in the Al-Hujayniyah suburb where 10 soldiers of the special units were killed and a large number of others were injured. These reports say that while encircling the areas of the clashes, the Syrian Army used heavy arms and tank fire against residential areas, demolishing three buildings with the people inside. The city is still besieged and clashes are continuing between the Syrian soldiers and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Amidst this feverish atmosphere in Aleppo, the Syrian Communist Party distributed leaflets threatening to resort to negative action against the Syrian authorities.

In the city of Hamah, clashes occurred between the special units and the Muslim Brotherhood. A number of people were killed or injured on both sides. In the An-Nawa'ir suburb, a senior party member was assassinated, but the authorities kept his name secret. A number of bodies were found on An-Nawa'ir bridge where skirmishes continue between the Syrian forces and the Muslim Brotherhood.

BEGIN LEAVES HADASSAH HOSPITAL IN WHEELCHAIR

TA141025 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1016 GMT 14 Dec 81

[From the "Red Line" program]

[Excerpt] Our correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports from Hadassah hospital that the prime minister left there by a side entrance, disappointing the dozens of reporters and members of the public who were waiting there. The prime minister left the hospital in a wheelchair and entered a waiting staff car. The ITIM correspondent reports that in the coming 2 weeks the prime minister will be able to get around on crutches.

CABINET MEETS IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

TA140958 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0955 GMT 14 Dec 81

[From the "Red Line" program]

[Text] The Israeli Cabinet is now meeting in extraordinary session at the prime minister's residence. The meeting is being chaired by Mr Begin, who returned home a short time ago from Hadassah hospital. During the day the prime minister held a series of consultations with various ministers, including Ministers Sharon, Hammer, Moda'i, Nissim and others. The subject of the meeting is not known at this time.

ISRAELI LAW TO BE APPLIED ON GOLAN HEIGHTS

TA141304 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] The Cabinet has decided to apply Israeli law on the Golan Heights. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the prime minister will brief the Knesset plenum within 1 hour. The Cabinet's decision was made in an extraordinary session at the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem. Later, Mr Begin summoned the chairman of the Alignment faction in the Knesset, Moshe Shahal, and informed him about the decision.

Consultations With Factions

TA131255 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1250 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Here is a report we have just received from the prime minister's residence: Menahem Begin is now meeting there with MK Shlomo Lorincz from Agudat Yisra'el. Before that, the chairman of the Knesset Alignment faction, Moshe Shahal, met with the prime minister. After he left there Shahal convened the Knesset Alignment faction and it is now meeting for a discussion on what Shahal heard from Menahem Begin.

MAPAM, SHINUY TO OPPOSE LAW ON GOLAN HEIGHTS

TA141311 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] The coalition executive and the Alignment faction in the Knesset have called a session to discuss the decision to apply Israeli law on the Golan Heights. MAPAM and Shinuy have announced that they would oppose the decision. According to MAPAM, the entire Alignment should oppose the decision because this move contradicts the Alignment's platform.

The Shinuy faction says there is no precedent to the annexation of an area outside the international border.

MK Abba Eban of the Alignment has said that he would vote against the decision.

EXTRADITED 'TERRORIST' ARRIVES AT BEN-GURION

TA131741 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1720 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 13 Dec -- Ziyad Abu 'Ayn, a terrorist sought in Israel for his part in the terrorist act committeed in Tiberias on Independence Day in 1979 was extradited to Israel from the United States today.

The terrorist, a thin man about 30 years old, dressed in a coat, was taken off the El Al plane which arrived form New York this afternoon.

The security officials grasped his hands and took him swiftly down the ramp, shackling his hands as they descended the stairs.

Two security cars were waiting. The terrorist was put in the back seat of a car between his two guards, and the cars immediately left the airport with a police escort. Only then did the other passengers begin disembarking from the jumbo jet.

The terrorist was detained in Chicago where he managed to escape to after the terrorist act in which 2 boys were killed and 30 people injured. He fled to Jordan from where he later went to the United States. However, Abu 'Ayn was identified through the testimony of another terrorist who had already been convicted for his role in the incident. Israel then began the procudures for his extradition from the United States.

This process came to an end today and he will be put on trial here in Israel.

The ITIM correspondent adds that Abu 'Ayn was extradited at the end of a long struggle he had conducted in the United States for 2 years in an effort to prevent his extradition. Last month the U.S. Supreme Court decided not to hear his appeal. He claimed that the Israeli-U.S. extradition pact does not apply to him since the accusations against him are "of a political nature."

After the Supreme Court refused to hear his appeal, his last chance to prevent the extradition was to turn to the State Department. But it, too, rejected his appeal, deciding not to object to the extradition.

Deputy Secretary of State William Clark announced that on Saturday he signed the order for Abu 'Ayn's transfer to the hands of the Israeli authorities.

The U.S. deputy secretary explained this action by stating that the United States has an extradition agreement with Israel and a binding law according to which there is no choice but to extradite the man to Israel.

West Bank Demonstrations

TA141120 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Today there were breaches of the peace in several towns in Judaea and Samaria to protest the extradition of the terrorist Ziyad Abu 'Ayn from the United States to Israel. This morning in Nabulus, a demonstration of students from the An-Najah college was dispersed with tear gas. In Bethlehem students of the university threw stones at the security forces and there were also breaches of the peace in Ramallah.

In this context, our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the Military Government has detained for interrogation about 50 youths from Qalandiyah after they had watched PLO propaganda films and revolutionary films in their club. The films were videotapes smuggled into the country.

PRESS OFFICE STATEMENT ON CABINET SESSION 13 DEC

TA131449 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1415 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Government Press Office release]

[Text] Jerusalem, 13 Dec -- In today's Cabinet meeting:

A. The Cabinet approved the reductions in the state budget and, according to the finance minister's decision, it has transferred a sum of 1,328,685 shekels from the ministries' budgets to the general reserve clause.

B. The foreign minister briefed the Cabinet on the visit to Israel by his French counterpart.

C. The defense minister and the director general of the prime minister's office reported to the Cabinet about the contacts held with the Yamit and Ofira residents. The Cabinet held a discussion and decided to reestablish the ministerial committee composed of the deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, Simha Ehrlich, as the committee's chairman, and of the finance and housing ministers. This committee has been authorized to decide, with the Cabinet's knowledge and approval, on the matter of compensation according to the Cabinet deicisions.

D. The interior minister briefed the Cabinet on the murder of the head of the Ramla detention center.

RAFAH CURFEW LIFTED; GAZA STRIKE CONTINUES

TA131922 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1840 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Gaza, 13 Dec -- The curfew imposed in Rafah last week following student disturbances was lifted at noon today and life in that town has returned to normal.

In the rest of the Gaza Strip towns and villages students rioted today but the security forces' speedy intervention restored order.

Most of the shops in the region were opened, public transportation returned to normal and classes were held as usual.

The trials conducted against merchants and students accused of disturbances have continued and the ITIM correspondent in the Gaza Strip reports that until the end of last week 21 residents had been fined sums up to 10,000 shekels and about 80 more are awaiting trial in military court. Trials following the "speedy hearing" method are also being held in Rafah and Khan Yunus against merchants and students.

Meanwhile it has been learned that there has been no attempt to bring about renewed contacts between the Civilian Administration and the action committee set up at the end of last week to take care of all strike affairs. The strike, declared by the economic organizations and encompassing all professionals -- pharmacists, dispensaries' workers, attorneys and engineers -- was total.

Gaza Strike To Continue

TA132118 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Gaza municipality and the Chamber of Commerce announced this evening that the strike in Gaza will continue only 1 more day, as contacts were held with the military authorities today and the results are encouraging.

The municipality is saying that it hopes to reach an agreement to end the strike which has continued in Gaza for over a week now. Municipality sources told our correspondent, Arye Gus, they hoped that if such an agreement were reached, the strike of the physicians and pharmacists would also end.

The Gaza military court today imposed high fines and suspended imprisonment on 13 physicians and pharmacists for violating an order for them to return to normal work.

Home-arrest orders were issued in Rafah and Khan Yunus against the organizers of the strikes. In Khan Yunus an order was issued against Dr 'Aziz al-Rantisi who organized the pharmacists' and physicians' strike and in Rafah an order was issued against Dr Ziyad (Sha'at), a member of the Municipal Council.

PAPER REPORTS POSSIBLE HAIG VISIT 18 DEC

TA141011 Tel Aviv VEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Dec 81 p 2

[Arye Tzimuqi report]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig may come to Israel on Friday, 18 December, for a planned 4-hour visit after the cancellation yesterday owing to events in Poland.

The decision to postpone that visit was made early yesterday morning with the agreement of U.S. President Ronald Reagan and was received with understanding by Jerusalem.

A report is expected to arrive today on Haig's talks in Europe with representatives of various countries on the matter of their participation in the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers. According to all the signs, European countries will join this force and will give a positive reply to Minister Shamir's letter on the issue.

MOBUTU CONFIRMS INTENTION TO RESUME TIES

TA131952 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Zaire's president, Lieutenant General Mobutu, has confirmed that he intends to resume relations with Israel and that, Zaire, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Togo and the Central African Republic are also going to resume diplomatic relations with Israel. This is reported by our correspondent in the United States, Dan Raviv.

Our correspondent adds that in a meeting he held in New York with the leaders of the Jewish Antidefamation League Lieutenant General Mobutu said that diplomatic recognition will be given after Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai in April 1982. Mobutu mentioned that his economic adviser is an Israeli and that Israeli advisers are active in his country.

KNESSET MEMBER COMMENTS BEFORE LEAVING FOR USSR

TA131904 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1825 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 13 Dec -- It is no coincidence that only 1 day after Israel signed the memorandum of strategic understanding with the United States, an invitation was extended for an Israeli delegation to visit the Soviet Union. This evaluation was made today by one of the members of the Israeli delegation, Knesset Member Ora Namir, who is serving as the chairman of the Knesset Education Committee.

Namir was speaking to an ITIM correspondent at Ben-Gurion airport before her departure, together with the other delegation members, at the invitation of the Soviet Union's "peace committee," for a tour of Moscow, Leningrad and, apparently, another town. She expressed the hope and expectation that the delegation would meet with members of the Soviet administration, that she would be permitted to visit educational institutions, to attend a synagogue in every town she visited and to meet with Soviet Jews.

"I regard this as a Soviet signal that they do not want a complete severence of ties with us. The Soviet Union is not interested in cutting itself off from us altogether, and I am sure that the invitation is no coincidence," Ms Namir said.

Another delegation member, a member of the RAKAH Political Bureau and the party's secretary, David Hinin, said that all the delegation members had voted in the Knesset against the memorandum of understanding with the United States, although for different reasons. In his opinion, the Soviet Union wants to express its position that security in the Middle East must guarantee the rights of all the peoples in the area and that, for a just solution, Soviet participation in the peace process is needed.

Also participating in the delegation are Knesset Member Rabbi Menahem Kohen, former Knesset Member Haya Grossman, of MAPAM, and RAKAH secretary in Nazareth Salim Hubran. The delegation will spend 12 days in the Soviet Union.

It will be noted that this is the first time in 2 years that a delegation of public figures, most of whom are not RAKAH members, has been invited to the Soviet Union.

A RAKAH announcement issued before the tour says that the delegation will meet with representatives of the Soviet "peace committee" and other public organizations.

HA'ARETZ: SOVIET DIPLOMAT DISCUSSES MIDEAST

TA131134 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Dec 81 p 1

[Report by correspondent Gid'on Samet]

[Text] Washington -- Soviet representatives are holding contacts in West European countries with the aim of finding common principles for an overall settlement in the Middle East. The Soviet Union has also perceived "incipient signs" of new thinking about the region from the U.S. administration, according to a diplomat in the Soviet Embassy in Washington who was speaking to this reporter.

The senior diplomat -- who initiated the conversation -- said also that the Middle East tour by special Soviet envoy Mikhail Sytenko was an expression of "possible Soviet activity." He noted that Mr Sytenko, who was formerly director of the Middle East section in the Foreign Ministry, was in the region at the same time as Philip Habib. They were in Jordan at the same time.

The purpose of the contacts with the West European countries -- at regular diplomatic levels -- was to "compare approaches," on the basis of the Venice declaration and the Fahd plan, which contain elements that also form part of the Soviet approach. Western diplomats here, who confirmed to this reporter that such contacts were taking place, termed them "routine."

The Soviet diplomat called the memorandum of understanding between Israel and the United States a "provocation," but was moderate in his criticism of it. The "unprecedented nature" of the document's anti-Soviet formulations was to be regretted, the Soviet diplomat said, quoting in this matter the remarks of MK Abba Eban in the Knesset debate on the memorandum. "This is not appropriate with the accepted manner of making international policy today," he said.

If relations between the United States and the Soviet Union improve, he added, "the text of the document will remain up in the air." He noted that a U.S.-Soviet thaw would in the near future permit "some kind of rapprochement" between the Soviet Union and Israel and the memorandum of understanding would interfere with this.

The meeting with the HA'ARETZ reporter took place last Thursday in the Soviet Embassy -- which is opposite the building where the memorandum was signed -- and lasted about 90 minutes. The diplomat then left to attend a meeting with the Jordanian ambassador to the United States, who had come to speak with his Soviet counterpart.

ALGERIA

MINISTRY STATEMENT ON U.S.-LIBYAN RELATIONS

LD122258 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman made the following statement this evening:

Algeria expressed extreme concern and immense preoccupation over the serious developments experienced today in Libyan-U.S. relations. This escalation, coupled with serious accusations and clear threats which are being repeatedly stressed, by its very nature tends to harm peace and security in our area.

The Foreign Ministry statement added: Algeria is certainly affected by the open threats of intervention against a fraternal and neighboring country to which it expresses its full solidarity. The Foreign Ministry statement said Algeria expresses its utmost sorrow at the threats and intimidation particularly from a superpower who quite clearly bears the responsibility for safeguarding international peace and security. The statement noted our concern further grows especially when the serious deterioration in relations between Tripoli and Washington has developed at the same time as the increased dispatch of delegations and military personalities to the area.

The statement by the Foreign Ministry spokesman recalled that Algeria has never ceased to work to make this sensitive area safe from foreign interference. The spokesman concluded his statement by saying: We consider strengthening peace and security in this part of the Mediterranean to be a basic condition for promoting fruitful cooperation between all the countries adjacent to it and a necessary mortar for establishing international relations on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and the legitimate aspirations of the nations and equality and noninterference in the domestic affairs of states.

ALGERIA CONDEMNS U.S. EXTRADITION OF PALESTINIAN

NC140946 Paris AFP in English 0938 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Algiers, 14 Dec (AFP) -- Algeria today officially condemned the United States' decision to extradite to Israel a suspected Palestinian terrorist as a "flagrant violation of rights".

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the handing over of Ziyad Abu 'Ayn -- suspected of participation in a bombing in Tiberias in which two died in 1979 -- to the "police torturers of Tel Aviv" was "new evidence of the American Government's hostility to the Palestinian and Arab cause".

LIBYA

COMMUNIQUE DENIES AMERICANS IN LIBYA THREATENED

LD111900 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1806 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Dec (JANA) -- The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison today released a communique denying the American administration's allegation that the security situation for American citizens in Libya has deteriorated. The following is the text of the communique:

The American administration announced that the security situation in the Jamahiriyah for U.S. citizens has deteriorated and that given the danger threatening Americans and the increasing risks for them, the American Government has urged them to leave the Jamahiriyah as soon as possible. It also made American passports invalid for travel to the Jamahiriyah.

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison denies the allegation contained in the U.S. communique and emphasizes that nothing in the Jamahiriyah disturbs the security situation for foreigners, including American citizens. It also stresses that there is not truth to claims that these and other foreign citizens are in danger.

While welcoming all foreigners, including American citizens, who work in the country and praising their role in economic development, the Jamahiriyah points out to all of them that their freedom to stay, to visit and to leave is guaranteed and that what they do in this regard is entirely up to them.

On the other hand, the Jamahiriyah sees no reason to poison the atmosphere of the excellent relations between it and the Americans working in the country. It emphasizes that it will continue to look after the security, freedom and safety of all Americans residing in the Jamahiriyah for any purpose and also stresses its eagerness to cooperate with them whether they choose to stay or opt to leave.

JANA: U.S. OIL WORKERS INTEND TO STAY IN LIBYA

LD140852 Tripoli JANA in English 1805 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Washington, 12 Dec (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY) -- Independent oil analysts and American oil company spokesman agreed today that President Reagan's call on American workers to leave Libya will not harm the Libyan oil industry.

The Voice of America radio this morning quoted a top American oil company executive as saying: "We should be aware that there are other non-American companies operating in the country and that many non-Americans working for U.S. companies in Libya prefer to stay there. Libya can maintain its level of current oil production without the assistance of American technicians.

A spokesman for "Marathon" oil company also backed the above viewpoint, saying Libya will not be affected by the Reagan decision.

In Washington, the managing director of "Conoco" oil company's affiliate in Libya is carrying out its activities there normally with no changes.

Our correspondent in New York said the directors of some American oil companies with affiliates in Libya said in a State Department meeting reported by the "C.B.S." news network that there is no threat to the safety of their employees in Libya and that the American administration's declarations on the subject are incorrect. They were quoted as saying that the Jamahiriyah is eager that these companies continue their activities in Libya normally. They told administration officials that American companies will suffer as a consequence of Reagan's decision. They said they are certain these companies do not wish to withdraw from Libya because their interests there cannot be sacrificed.

The C.B.S. news programme further included a series of interviews carried out in London and Rome with a number of Americans working in Libya who are either on holiday or on business in these capitals and who unanimously declared that they are not planning to leave Libya as long as Libya continues to grant them leave to remain. They categorically said there was no harassment or anything else distrubing their stay in Libya.

One worker said he has spent six years working happily amongst Libyans. Another U.S. specialist added that he had never felt his safety at risk despite the U.S. stances against Libya. C.B.S. said that all the employees interviewed stated that they will be returning to Libya once their leave or business are concluded and that none is willing to comply with Reagan's request.

The CBS correspondent in Bussels said that all U.S. companies working with NATO have also categorically objected to the U.S. policy towards Libya and expressed their determination to continue normal relations with it.

In London, UP quoted reliable sources from "Occidental Petroleum", the largest oil company in Libya, that the company will not advise its employees in Libya to depart.

In view of press and T.V. interviews with a large number of officials from U.S. oil companies reports from Washington indicate that U.S. employees in Libya have decided to stay in Libya where they live safely unharassed by anybody.

Commenting on this from Washington the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY said all this clearly refutes Reagan's allegations regarding the threatened safety of the U.S. citizens in Libya.

COMMENTARY SCORNS REAGAN'S LIBYAN POLICY

LD131520 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] The method used by Reagan in his war against the Jamahiriyah is being proved wrong every day. He wants to deal an economic blow to the Jamahiriyah through the withdrawal of American citizens working in the oil business. But according to the American oil experts themselves, oil extracting in the Jamahiriyah will proceed regardless of whether the Americans stay or leave.

But these oil company employees themselves have said that they intend to stay because their life here is quieter and more secure than in any American city. Reagan, by his reckless policies, has even failed to convince American citizens. The only thing that he has been able to achieve is to unite the peoples of the world against him, including Americans themselves who now have come to realize the truth about his sanguine policies. In this context, the letter sent by University of California professors to the American secretary of state, condemning the positions of the American administration, is evidence that Reagan is lighting a fire that has begun to burn down his obdurate policies.

AZ-ZAQ'AR ON U.S. BOYCOTT, OPEC CONFERENCE

GF121131 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Dec (WAKH) -- Libyan Petroleum Secretary 'Abd as-Salam az-Zaq'ar said Libya does not care about its boycott by U.S. companies despite the serious situation that may result. He declared: "We have not compelled anyone to leave Libya. Libya shoulders its responsibilities alone."

Speaking at a press conference in Abu Dhabi today, Az-Zaq'ar welcomed any Arab or European companies that wish to replace the departing U.S. companies.

Referring to the seriousness of the situation arising from the departure of U.S. companies from Libya, Az-Zaq'ar said: "The situation is not as simple as it appears for there will be problems. However, this will not stop us from making efforts. The Jamahiriyah will operate its installations and fields by itself, or at least with its friends, who are many."

Az-Zaq'ar asserted: "Libya believes that the OPEC conference did not succeed." He stressed that his country rejects the prices based on differentials and said such a system naturally will affect developing countries which will be harmed as result of a reduction in aid given to them.

He said the price issue depends on the oil market and on technical studies and methods. He declared: "When we call for just prices this is because we feel we are being preyed upon and subjected to pressures from all directions."

As for OPEC bearing the damages that Libya may suffer as a result of the withdrawal of the U.S. companies, the Libyan petroleum secretary said that OPEC should shoulder some of the responsibilities. He said: "All OPEC members are liable to meet the same situation Libya is facing."

The Libyan petroleum secretary said that the U.S. hostile stand toward Libya is due to Libya's opposition to the anti-Arab policy of the United States.

The Libyan petroleum secretary said his country will firmly confront the United States in the Gulf of Sidra even if the color of the Gulf turns red. He pointed out that France and Germany support Libya against the U.S. boycott. The Libyan minister said: "We believe that should a certain country go astray, other countries will not make the same mistake. In that sense, France and Germany will not stand up for the United States, for instance."

Az-Zaq'ar called on European countries to avoid following in the footsteps of the United States, saying: "Europe should be wise enough not to exert pressure on Libya because the European countries know the power of the Libyan Arab people."

The Libyan minister denied that his country's refusal of Tunisia's OAPEC membership had anything to do with the continental shelf problem between the two countries. He explained that Libya was not prepared for the conference and Libya's stand on Tunisia's membership has nothing to do with the continental shelf -- despite the fact that Libya was aware of Tunisia's application for membership. However, as was mentioned, there are certain economic considerations. He also said that his country was surprised by the conference adjournment.

On the supply-and-demand situation in the international oil market, the Libyan petroleum secretary said he expects the demand for OPEC oil to improve during the second half of 1982 after the series of reductions the members applied during the organization's two recent conferences take effect. He expressed optimism concerning increased demand for oil next year and said his country will study the situation in the international oil market and then decide what to do on prices or production.

He refrained from elaborating on measures his country will take after the return of U.S. companies, asserting that his country has experts in addition to the assistance it receives from brothers and friends.

The Libyan minister said there is no basis for U.S. allegations that Libya wants to kill the U.S. President. He said: "We ask the United States to provide any evidence of these allegations .

The Libyan petroleum secretary, who attended the 62d OPEC ministerial conference, warned that "Libya will take the measures it deems necessary to protect itself if the United States persists in its hostility toward Libya and tries to push it into a corner." He said: "It would be wise for the United States not to exert pressure on the Libyan people because they know their way very well and enjoy the assistance of all peoples struggling for the sake of freedom, including the American people."

ENVOY ASKS UN TO INVESTIGATE U.S. CLAIMS

NC110943 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] The Jamahiriyah UN mission charge d'affaires met yesterday with the Security Council president and informed him of the U.S. threats against the Jamahiriyah and the premeditated intentions against the Libyan Arab people these threats involve.

The mission's charge d'affairs emphasized to the Security Council president the Jamahiriyah's rejection of all U.S. allegations and claims involving attempts to assassinate the U.S. President and some of his aides. He asked in this respect that these claims and accusations be investigated, affirming that the Jamahiriyah challenges Reagan's administration to present evidence of proof substantiating its false allegations agains the Jamahiriyah.

The JANA correspondent has reported that the Jamahiriyah UN mission charge d'affaires told the Security Council president that the Jamahiriyah insists on demanding that a factfinding committee be formed. He also asked the council to authorize the secretary general or his representative to contact the two countires to investigate the accusations being leveled against the Jamahiriyah.

JANA CITES U.S. JOURNALIST'S ALLEGATIONS

LD121948 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1821 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Dec (JANA) -- Over the last 2 days, U.S. television broadcast a commentary by American journalist and commentator Jack Anderson, who is known for his links with the CIA, in which he made false allegations and fabrications over an alleged Libyan assassination squad sent to assassinate President Reagan and some of his aides. Jack Anderson tried to convey an illusion to his viewers and to convince them his claims were true. He presented photographs and names of the members of this alleged squad and mentioned their nationalities.

And, in an arrogant manner, Jack Anderson claimed that the U.S. security authorities knew these details and confirmed the existence of this squad. However, he failure of the U.S. authorities to produce any evidence or proof corroborating their allegations stresses the relevancy of the requests made by Libya to the United Nations and the fact that Libya underlined to the Security Council the need for an international investigation that will expose to the U.S. public and particularly to world public opinion the fallacy of the Reagan administration claims.

Through hints on the existance of imaginery names of the members of the alleged Libyan assassination squad, the U.S. administration tries to mislead U.S. and international public opinion. And the simple publicizing of imaginary names and alleged photographs such as the ones presented by Jack Anderson is further material evidence to the lies and fallacies of the U.S. allegations.

The names presented by the American journalist do not exist. They are a figment of the U.S. administration's imagination and even more so since the allegations in question tendentiously say that some of these names are Iranian, Palestinian and East German.

To expose these allegations, it suffices here to point out that world opinion knows quite well the hostile U.S. positions toward the Palestinian, Iranian and East German peoples.

Hence, we reaffirm that in the face of the failure of the Reagan administration to produce any evidence and its continuous blunderings, the Jamahiriyah will continue emphatically to ask for an international investigation over the U.S. allegations.

JANA REPORTS ON LIBYAN-ETHIOPIAN TALKS

LD121334 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 12 Dec (JANA) -- Libyan Arab-Ethiopian talks began yesterday evening in Addis Ababa.

At the beginning of the talks, Brother Staff Major Jallud and Fikre-Selassie exchanged speeches in which they reaffirmed the need to lay down practical steps for implementing the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed by the Jamahiriyah, the PDRY and Ethiopia from a revolutionary (?concept) that serves the interests and aims of the three nations. They also reaffirmed the need to confront the imperialist-Zionist attack against the Arab region and Africa.

SUDAN

OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON SUDANESE-PRC TALKS

JN121630 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Shanghai, 12 Dec (SUNA) -- Nafisah Ahmad al-Amin, Politburo member and chairman of the Political Committee participating in the PRC-Sudanese talks being held during the current visit to the PRC by Vice President 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, said the two sides agree that Prince Fahd's initiative can be regarded as an appropriate approach to solving the Middle East problem because it is reasonable and flexible. The two sides affirmed their support for the African and Asian peoples in their just struggle. The two sides referred explicitly to the need for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea and agreed to coordinate their efforts and work for the establishment of a new world economic order based on justice and equality.

On the issue of strengthening and promoting relations between the SSU [Sudan Socialist Union] and the CCP, Nafisah said agreement was reached on exchanging expertise through visits, symposia and seminars; on training cadres for field work especially in agriculture; on promoting cooperation and coordination among departments responsible for foreign activities in the two organizations; and on working to unify the Nonaligned Movement and to support the efforts of the popular organizations in the Third World states.

In conclusion, Nafisah said it was agreed that a delegation from the CCP will visit Sudan next year in response to an earlier invitation. For their part, the Chinese invited an SSU delegation to visit China. The invitation was accepted and the date of the visit will be fixed later. On another level, Nafisah said that she had invited Kang Keqing, vice chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and chairman of the PRC Women's Federation, to visit Sudan. The invitation was accepted and the date of the visit will be fixed later.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO VIEWS U.S. 'THREATS AGAINST LIBYA'

LD141052 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] On the American threats against Libya, Mohammed Abdelaziz, secretary general of the Polisario Front, stressed that the Polisario is following with deep anxiety the dangerous developments in the policy of the American administration. This wish by the United States to make its plans of aggression a reality, a Polisario communique adds, has revealed itself in the flagrant violation of Libya's territorial waters by the American 6th Fleet, the military encircling, the economic embargo, pressure on financial companies and enterprises and the intensification of psychological propaganda campaigns against the Arab people of Libya.

CHAD

CORRESPONDENTS CITE RETURN TO NORMAL IN NDJAMENA

AB111025 Lagos NAN in English 1008 GMT 11 Dec 81

[By Tony Idigo and Ako Mbawa]

[Text] Ndjamena, 10 Dec (NAN) -- Life is returning to normal in Ndjamena, following the arrival of some troops of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) peacekeeping force in Chad.

The commander of the force, Major-General Geoffrey Ejiga of Nigeria, told a team of Nigerian journalists currently on a fact finding mission to Chad that some Chadian nationals and foreigners who had fled the country during the crisis were now returning from neighboring countries. He said that some embassies which were closed down during the fighting had reopened, and shooting had stopped in Ndjamena.

Major-General Ejiga said that the first duty to be undertaken by the OAU force was to secure the portion where there was peace, adding that his troops were achieving this objective. The commander said that the problem of Chad was more political than military. He said it took three days to discuss the deployment of the peacekeeping troops, adding: "I hope that solutions would be found to most of these problems as we go along."

Major-General Ejiga disclosed that Nigeria would comply with the OAU decision that it should send two battalions to the force by December 17. So far, 700 Nigerian troops have arrived in Chad.

NAN correspondents in Ndjamena report that the airport [words indistinct] with few Chadian policemen carrying out immigration formalities. The terminal building at the airport has been partly destroyed and the control tower, which was unoccupied when the journalists arrived, had bullet holes and a partly damaged roof. The airport tarmac has cracks and landing aids are littered a few metres from the tarmac.

DEPLOYMENT OF PEACEKEEPING FORCE UNDERWAY

AB131412 Lagos NAN in English 1403 GMT 13 Dec 81

[By Tony Idigo and Ako Mbawa]

[Text] Ndjamena, 13 Dec (NAN) -- The deployment of troops of the Pan-African peace keeping force to operational zones in Chad has started, the commander of the force, Major General Geoffrey Ejiga, said in Ndjamena on Friday.

Already, a battalion of Nigerian troops has been deployed at Ati, some 200 kilometres from Abeche, where fighting is going on between the Chadian National Integrated Army and troops loyal to the former defence minister, Hissein Habre. The deployment of another battalion is expected to commence today.

General Ejiga told a team of Nigerian journalists on a factfinding mission to Chad that the Nigerian troops were being deployed from Maiduguri, Nigeria's Borno state, to their operational zones to avoid accommodation problems in Ndjamena.

[Words indistinct] the operational zone to which they were allocated, has so far not been possible because the airport serving Faya Largeau, the capital of Chad's northern region, had been damaged making it impossible for an aircraft to land or take off. The road from Ndjamena to Faya Largeau is not motorable.

Senegalese troops have also not been able to move to their operational zones.

Major General Ejiga said that as soon as the troops settled down, a programme for the re-organisation and re-training of the Chadian National Integrated Army would be worked out. He stated that the force would not disarm the Chadian Army, adding: We have not come here to take other functions of the Chadian Army." The commander said that the force would not deviate from its functions of keeping and securing peace which, he said, could be achieved through many menas.

Asked if the peace force would assist government forces to regain control of Abeche from Hissein Habre's forces, General Ejiga said that the African peace force would leave the Chadian Army to protect the country's territory.

General Ejiga said that the force was currently facing problems of logistics, inadquate infrastructure and the use of different languages by troops of the countries participating in the peace keeping operation. He said that the language problem was not, however, severe, adding that there was no previous experience on which the force could draw.

General Ejiga, however, expressed optimism that most of the problems would solved with (?work). I have never failed in any mission assigned to me and I don't intend to fail now.

ACYL DISCUSSES COUNTRY'S 'SERIOUS' SITUATION

AB131347 Lagos NAN in English 1329 GMT 13 Dec 81

[By Tony Idigo and Ako Mbawa]

[Text] Ati (Chad), 13 Dec (NAN) -- The Chadian foreign minister, Acyl Ahmat, has called for a re-definition of the role of the pan-African peace keeping force in Chad. He said that this was necessary because the situation which prevailed in Chad when the functions of the force were specified had changed.

Mr. Acyl told a team of Nigerian journalists (?that) visited him at Ati, about 200 kilometers from Abeche, in eastern Chad, that the situation in Chad was more serious than the outside world knew or believed. The foreign minister expressed a desire for the peace-keeping force to help the Chad Integrated Army regain control of those areas being occupied by forces loyal to the former defence minister, Hissein Habre.

Mr. Acyl condemned Sudan and Egypt for encouraging and maintaining Hissein Habre and his forces. .He said that peace would come to Chad only after government forces regained control of parts of the country being occupied by rebel forces.

Asked why he remained in Ati instead of going to Ndjamena, Mr Acyl said: This is a war sitution. I want to be with the troops in the war zone, I want to be there to regain control of Abeche or be killed. He said that peace force and the outside world should realise that Chad extended beyond Ndjamena. Mr Acyl stressed the need for Chadians to be enlightened about the role of the force. The foreign minister said that there was no government in Chad, adding "this is why I'm not particular about returning to Ndjamena." He said that since Libyan troops pulled out of Chad, most Chadian ministers have been flying around the world, adding that "Chadians could not be deceived all the time. They will recognise their true leaders when the time comes."

Asked if he was at loggerheads with President Goukouni Oueddei, Mr. Acyl said "No, but I have decided to stay in Ati."

Mr Acyl, a Chadian Arab, was surrounded by troops belonging to the former Popular Democratic Front Army under his command. The army was integrated into the Chadian National Army following the Lagos accord on Chad.

Mr Acyl stressed the need for Chad to maintain cordial relations with neighbouring countries particularly Libya since "Libya helped us to drive away the forces of Hissein Habre." Mr. Acyl said that contrary to Western propaganda, he was not closer to Libya than President Goukouni Oueddei or other Chadian leaders. He commended the efforts so far made by Nigeria and other African countries to resolve the dispute in Chand.

GABON

LEADERS DISCUSS STRIKE; BONGO ISSUES WARNING

AB121105 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] The president of the republic, His Excellency El-Hadj Omar Bongo, presided over an important meeting at the Renovation Palace yesterday. Present at the meeting were all Cabinet members, chairmen of all constituted bodies, members of the Political Bureau, political commissioners, the mayor of Libreville and his deputies, officials of Omar Bongo University, the leaders of student-parent association, traditional rulers, leaders of activist groups, secretaries of party sections and all members of the national bureaus of the party's specialized bodies. Government spokesman Zacharie Myboto explains what was discussed at the meeting.

[Begin recording] The president and head of state, secretary general and founder of the Gabonese Deomcratic Party presided over an important meeting today, Friday, 11 December 1981. Present at the meeting were the prime minister and head of government, the chairmen of the constituted bodies; the mayor of Libreville; Cabinet members and members of the Political Bureau; political commissioners; members of the national bureaus of the party's specialized bodies; party section secretaries; leaders of activist groups; traditional rulers and the representative of student-parent associations.

During the meeting, the president explained in detail the situation which prompted the security service to detain until investigations are over some people involved in the distribution of leaflets against the regime with a view to disrupting public order.

The head of state stressed that the authors of the leaflets called for a multiparty system to rekindle tribal and ethnic groups, internal disunion, denunciation and discord, atrocities suffered in the first years following our independence. The head of state recalled Ordinance 13-66 of March 1966 providing for the creation of the Gabonese Democratic Party as the country's only party and custodian of national unity, charged with the abolition of any sort of discrimination in this country. Any action contrary to this is a serious violation of the Constitution and will be punished by law.

The head of state referred to the situation at the university where some 100 students with the complicity of some lecturers are preventing the resumption of classes in a bid to secure the release of the university's former rector, Nzonghe Nguema, whose role in the events is unquestionable, as seen in his letter to the head of state. President Bongo then asked why the students persist in meddling in a matter that has absolutely nothing to do with academic life in spite of all the explanations given so far by several officials.

Several people took turns expressing their strong disapproval of the sordid maneuvers of all those trying to disrupt the political stability and peace characterizing our country, characteristics which have made possible its development which is unanimously described as particularly remarkable. The various people who spoke recalled that the president was democratically elected by the Gabonese people. Conscious of the achievements of his government in all sectors during his 14 years in power, they all condemned the behavior of the irresponsible persons behind the events.

With regard to students in particular, the meeting participants urged the government and the student parent associations to assume their responsibilities and put an end to the situation prevailing on the campus.

In his closing remarks, the head of state expalined that within the framework of dialogue characteristic of our party, he wanted to inform the various quarters of the population on this matter. He recalled that the practice of dialogue and tolerance do not preclude firm decisions. He said he will never allow disorder to prevail in Gabon. In this connection, he gave 48 hours to the government, the party's national leaders, university authorities and the student parent associations to get the students back to classes. After this deadline, he will take appropriate measures. [end recording]

MALI

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON CUBAN DELEGATION'S VISIT

AB031759 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 3 Dec 81

[Text] A press communique has been issued following the visit of a Cuban delegation to our country. This delegation, which was composed of His Excellency (Henry Toledo), head of the Department for Organization of the Cuban Communist Party in Villa Clara Province, and of His Excellency (Edel Viera Hermandes), head of the Department of Revolutionary Orientation of the Cuban Communist Party in the Province of Havana, made a working and friendly visit to the Republic of Mali from 1 to 4 December 1981 at the invitation of the Central Executive Bureau of the Malian People's Democratic Union [UDPM]. The Cuban delegation was accorded a warm and fraternal reception which demonstrated the friendly and brotherly ties uniting the Cuban and Malian peoples.

The delegation held fruitful discussions with the political leaders of the UDPM, which took place in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and enabled the Cuban and Malian political leaders to make a vast survey of the current African and international situation. They also exchanged views on many problems concerning bilateral cooperation between their two countries as well as relations between the Cuban Communist Party and the UDPM. These exchanges of views were fruitful.

Concerning bilateral cooperation, the two parties agreed to work harder to further strengthen the bonds of friendship and brotherly cooperation existing between the two countries. In this connection, the two parties recognized the need to explore the prospects of strengthening Cuban-Malian cooperation, especially in the political, economic, cultural and social fields.

The two parties reaffirmed their unshakeable faith in the principles and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement and the preservation of international peace and security. Finally, the two parties expressed satisfaction about the results of the visit of the Cuban Communist Party's delegation to Mali, which they considered a great contribution to the consolidation of the ties existing between the Cuban and Malian peoples.

The Malian side expressed its support for the Cuban people in the face of the present threats to their sovereignty and integrity. The Cuban delegation expressed its deep gratitude to the political leaders of the UDPM as well as to the entire Malian people for the warm and friendly reception accorded it throughout its stay in Mali.

The Cuban delegation to the working session included (Henry Toledo), head of the Department for Organization of the Cuban Communist Party in Villa Clara Province; (Edel Viera Hermandes), head of the Department of Revolutionary Orientation of the Cuban Communist Party in Havana Province, and Cuban ambassador to Mali His Excellency Carlos Neira Garcia. The Malian side was represented by His Excellency Dr Mamadou Dembele and Mahamed Talibe Soumare -- both members of the UDPM Central Executive Bureau -- and Mamadou Sogo, an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

NIGER

OBSERVERS NOTE DESIRE TO NORMALIZE LIBYAN TIES

AB131110 Paris AFP in French 1400 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Niamey, 12 Dec (AFP) -- Despite the report published in Paris last Friday to the effect that 12 Niger civil servants fled to Libya at the end of August this year, observers in the Niger capital have noted Niamey's discreet desire to normalize its relations with Tripoli, which have seriously deteriorated for more than 1 year now.

Public Health and Social Affairs Minister Maj Djermakoye Adamou Moumouni went to Tripoli in the middle of November with a message from Col Seyni Kountche to his Libyan counterpart Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, it is learned from official sources. According to various diplomatic sources, the minister -- whom observers consider the regime's second in command -- recently paid another brief visit to Tripoli. These two visits were preceded in the middle of October by the arrival in Niamey of 'Abd al-Majid al-Mabruk al-Qa'ud, secretary (minister) of atomic energy, who delivered a message to President Kountche.

These exchanges of messages, about which the authorities did not give any explanation, followed a period of frozen relations resulting from the expulsion on 13 January 1980 of Libyan diplomats in Niamey, who were accused of turning their embassy into a people's bureau and especially of engaging in activities incompatible with their diplomatic status.

Concerning the report from a reliable source in Paris to the effect that 12 civil servants of Targuie origin have crossed over to Libya, it was preceded in Niamey by numerous rumors that followed the 28 August cadres conference during which the problems of Niger's internal security were discussed. The report that the deserters included Mohamed Ag Ahmadou, the permanent undersecretary of the national defense minister -- this post is occupied by the head of state himself -- was not officially confirmed. Niger authorities refused to comment on Friday evening.

Observers in Niamey have remarked that the extreme discretion being observed by Niger authorities with regard to this matter seems to demonstrate their desire not to dramatize this episode and particularly to strengthen, despite everything, the ties between the two countries. In the economic field, these ties have not suffered much from last year's acute political differences.

Thus Niger's official gazette has reported that Niger's National Mining Board, Onarem, sold 1,212 tons of uranium to Libya in 1981. Economic circles report these sales were made at a rate far higher than the world price (26,000 CFA francs per kilo instead of 17,500 per kilo) and at the French support price (20,000 CFA francs per kilo). Libya is thus the second major purchaser of Niger's minerals when that country is in dire need of resources to face the economic crisis and the drought.

In the political field, Libya's withdrawal from Chad seems to have been received with satisfaction by the Niger authorities, diplomatic sources pointed out.
According to these sources, the recent exchange of messages between Niamey and Tripoli could demonstrate Niger's anxiety to obtain guarantees from its powerful northern neighbor concerning its internal security and territorial integrity. The same sources remarked that the two countries -- one of which needs financial resources while the other wants to free itself from a certain amount of international isolation -- would do well to normalize their relations a few months before the Islamic conference which is expected to be held in Niamey during the spring and before the OAU summit conference in Tripoli.

SIERRA LEONE

STEVENS DECLARES 3-MONTH STATE OF EMERGENCY

AB112042 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] The president, Dr Siaka Stevens, has in a proclamation issued today declared a state of emergency throughout the country for a period of 3 months. President Stevens issued the proclamation under section 45 of the public order act of 1965 which provides that it shall be lawful for the president on the advice of the first vice president to declare state of emergency on indication to the president that any action has been or is being taken or is threatened by any person or body of persons which is calculated to endanger public safety or public order.

ANGOLA

AFRICAN CONDEMNATION OF U.S. ACTION REPORTED

LD131638 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1100 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Excerpts] New York, 12 Dec (ANGOP) -- The group of African countries at the United Nations firmly condemned the official treatment accorded by the Reagan administration to the Angolan puppet groups allied to racist South Africa.

It should be recalled that the support given by the U.S. Government to the racist regime and its agents who use it in attacking and massacring defenseless peoples is opposed by the entire international community.

As the Angolan head of state said in Cabinda last Thursday on the occasion of the anniversary of the founding of the MPLA and its transformations into a political party, there are prominent public figures, businessmen, scientists and social organizations in the United States itself opposed to such U.S. policies. These forces "are interested in strengthening mutually advantageous cooperation in the economic sphere with the People's Republic of Angola." Their stand is wise and realistic. The Angolan Government has thus expressed its readiness, at any time, to discuss with the U.S. Government all problems of common interest within the bilateral context tending toward the normalization of relations between the two countries.

As part of a coordinated plan of international imperialism, the Angolan puppet groups, long rebuffed by the Angolan people, are nothing but tools of the racist Pretoria regime whose crimes are no secret to anybody. The U.S. policies constitute an interference in Angola's internal affairs and are contrary to the spirit and letter of the UN Charter.

NEW MINISTER OF STATE SECURITY APPOINTED

EA121134 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Col Juliao Mateus Paulo Dino Matroce, member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party, was relieved by presidential decree from his post of Benguela provincial commissioner. He has been appointed minister of state security.

Kundi Paima, candidate member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee Political Bureau, who had been minister of state security, was also relieved by presidential decree from his post and appointed provincial commissioner of Benguela.

Four further presidential decrees appointed Lt Col Mendes Antonio de Castro, member of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party, deputy minister for state security; Antonio Henriques da Silva and Mario (Nelson) Cardoso (Maximilio), deputy ministers of planning; and Carlos Alberto dos Santos, deputy minister of energy.

ZIMBABWE

REPUBLICAN MP DETAINED; CONSPIRACY SUSPECTED

CA121502 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] A spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office has confirmed the detention of a Republican Front member of parliament, said to be Mr Stuttaford, under the emergency powers legislation. The statement issued yesterday says investigations are being conducted into allegations that the member and others were conspiring with the intention of illegally overthrowing the constitutionally elected government.

The allegations indicate that the conspirators were plotting in cooperation with other political elements. The statement added that court proceedings are expected to be instituted soon.

AFP Report

AB111000 Paris AFP in English 0909 GMT 11 Dec 81

[By Dave Clemens]

[Excerpts] Salisbury, 11 Dec (AFP) -- Zimbabwean authorities have arrested a white member of parliament in a move that dramatizes the deteriorating relations between the 19-month-old black government and the white community.

The national newspaper THE HERALD reported today that the MP had been seized at his home in Bulawayo, the country's second city, and brought to Salisbury. Political sources identified as W.E. Stuttaford, member for Bulawayo South constituency and one of 20 whites in the 100-member parliament. The reason for the arrest could not immediately be ascertained. All 20 white legislators belong to the Republican Front [RF], formerly the Rhodesian front, which declared independence from Britain in 1965 to escape black rule and held power until 1979.

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe alleged in an interview with a British newspaper this week that RF leader Ian Smith, who was Rhodesian prime minister, and certain other party members were plotting a coup against the government. Mr Mugabe was also quoted as saying that his concern had grown over the past six months about the attitude of the whites -- there are now fewer than 200,000 of them as against 7.5 million blacks. Some now seemed to be rejecting his policy of racial reconciliation, the prime minister said.

Yesterday's arrest was made by security men from the Office of the Prime Minister, police said today. The police are still headed by a white, Commissioner Peter Allum, while Mr Mugabe's security services are headed by his black minister of state, Emmerson Munanagagwa.

This past weekend, another incident occurred in Salisbury that appears trivial but indicates the level of distrust of whites among black army officers, who accuse some of their white colleagues of leaking information to South Africa. Fourteen white civilians -- 10 women and four men, between the ages of 40 and 63 -- were detained overnight at Zimbabwe Army headquarters after playing their regular Sunday game of lawn bowls at a bowling green there. They were overtaken as they drove toward the exit gate by a brigadier in civilian clothes, who they said shouted at them about an attempted coup and seemed to compare them to the mercenaries who tried last month to invade the Seychelles. One white man said the brigadier punched him several times. Police say two high-ranking army officers are to appear in court in connection with the incident.

Mr Mugabe, in a speech yesterday, said that some whites had one foot in Zimbabwe and one foot in South Africa. He said that it was "in this group that we find the culprits, those who are planning sabotage, those who will be as offensive as possible." The prime minister said, in somewhat oblique language, that such people must choose between loyalty to Zimbabwe and leaving the country.

BRIEFS

RELATIONS WITH SWAZILAND -- Zimbabwe and the Kingdom of Swaziland have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at high commission level. A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the move is aimed at strengthening the bonds of friendship and developing economic, cultural, and scientific relations between the two countries. [Text] [Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 28 Nov 81 EA]